



**M<sup>rs</sup> ZILPHA ELAW**

**MEMOIRS**  
OF THE  
**LIFE, RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE,**  
**MINISTERIAL TRAVELS AND LABOURS,**  
OF  
**MRS. ZILPHA ELAW,**  
AN AMERICAN FEMALE OF COLOUR;  
TOGETHER WITH SOME  
ACCOUNT OF THE GREAT RELIGIOUS REVIVALS  
IN AMERICA.  
[WRITTEN BY HERSELF.]

PRICE 2s. FINE EDITION, 3s.

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." 2. Cor. iii. 5.

**LONDON:**

**PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORESS, AND SOLD BY T. DUDLEY,  
15, CHARTER-HOUSE LANE; AND MR. B. TAYLOR,  
19, MONTAGUE-ST. SPITALFIELDS.**

**1846.**

E185/  
97  
.E36

W. AND R. WOODCOCK, PRINTERS,  
204, WARWICK LANE, PATERNOSTER-ROW, AND  
BRUNSWICK STREET, HACKNEY ROAD.

Wm. 2 ap. 14

## DEDICATION.

---

To the Saints and faithful Brethren in Christ, who have honoured my ministry with their attendance, in London and other localities of England.

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

---

DEAR BRETHERN AND FRIENDS,

After sojourning in your hospitable land, and peregrinating among you during these last five years; in the course of which period, it has been my happiness to enjoy much spiritual intercourse with many of you in your family circles, your social meetings, and in the house of God, I feel a strong desire again to cross the pathless bosom



of the foaming Atlantic, and rejoin my dear friends in the occidental land of my nativity; and, in the prospect of an early departure from your shores, I feel that I cannot present you with a more appropriate keepsake, or a more lively memento of my Christian esteem, and affectionate desires for your progressive prosperity and perfection in the Christian calling, than the following contour portrait of my regenerated constitution—exhibiting, as did the bride of Solomon, comeliness with blackness; and, as did the apostle Paul, riches with poverty, and power in weakness—a representation, not, indeed, of the features of my outward person, drawn and coloured by the skill of the pencilling artist, but of the lineaments of my inward man, as inscribed by the Holy Ghost, and, according to my poor ability, copied off for your edification.

If, therefore, there is anything in the soul reviving and thrilling Christian intercourse we have enjoyed together in the Spirit of Christ, and in the holy communion with which we have so frequently met together in the house of God, mingled our ascending petitions at the throne of grace, unboresomed our spiritual conflicts and trials to one another, and listened with devotional interest to the messages of gospel mercy, and the unfolding

## DEDICATION.

v

mysteries of divine grace, in times now passed over for ever, worthy of your cherished recollections ; and, if the poor and weak instrumentality in the gospel of Jesus, of the coloured female, whose labours and sojourn amongst you are hastening to a close, have rendered her an object, not unworthy of your cherished recollections ; receive with cordial and generous courtesy, this small token of an esteem and love, which she will continue to cherish on a far distant shore, in another clime, long as life permits its exercise, and resume, on our mutual recognition in that renewed state of existence, which will be characterised by the eternal developments of elevated holiness, blissful immortality, and transcendant glory.

My dear brethren and sisters in the Lord. I gratefully acknowledge the numerous marks of kindness you have conferred upon me during my residence in your land. I intreat your prayers for my preservation from the perils of the deep, whenever my path may lie through it ; and your continued remembrance of my pilgrim course and ministerial labours, at the throne of grace. I affectionately exhort you to walk worthy of the high vocation wherewith you are called, shunning, carefully, the destructive vices which so deplorably abound in and disfigure the Christian community, in

this day of feverish restlessness and mighty movement. Remember, dear brethren, that they who will be rich, fall into temptation, and a snare, and numerous foolish and hurtful lusts, which will eventually drown them in perdition. Cease, therefore, from earthly accumulations; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Renounce the love of money; for it is the root of all evil. Love not the world; for the love of God is not in those who love the world. Look deep into the principles which form the under current, regardless of the artificial surface-polish of society; and abhor the pride of respectability; for that which is highly esteemed amongst men, is an abomination in the sight of God. Deal not in tale-bearing; neither be busy-bodies in other men's matters. Judge not one another, for your Judge standeth before the door. Be not ambitious, ostentatious, proud, haughty, morose, or wrathful; for God resisteth the proud and haughty scorner. Be ye, therefore, clothed with meekness and humility. Shut not your hearts against the poor, but ever remember them; for blessed is he that considereth them; and very unlike Jesus is he who cherishes a lurking prejudice in his heart against the children of need, and stoppeth his ears at their plaints. Take heed what you read: as a tree of knowledge, both of good and evil, is the press;

it oftentimes teems with rabid poisons, putting darkness for light, and light for darkness; extolling earthly grandeur and honour, spurious valour and heroism; fixing reputation and character on a false basis; and frequently appearing as the panegyrist of the rankest principles, and the basest vices. Above all, shun an infidel, obscene or disloyal newspaper press, which is the scavenger of slander, and the harlequin of character; the masquerade of morals, and the burlesque of religion; the proteus of sentiment, and the dictionary of licentiousness; the seminary of libertines, and the hot-bed of sedition. Defile not your eyes with the sight of its columns, nor your heart with its proximity. Remember that you are called to be saints, not politicians and news-mongers. Give your cordial preference, therefore, to the Holy Scriptures; carefully read, study, and digest them, especially the title-deeds of the Christian covenant. Endeavour, as far as in you lies, to do the will of God on earth, as it is done in heaven. Imbibe the sentiments and spirit, the temper, disposition and manner of Christ Jesus, your inestimable pattern. Cautiously, diligently, and habitually observe and obey the directions and statutes of Christ and his apostles, that your foundation may be built not upon the sand of current traditions and prejudices, but upon the prophets

and apostles, Christ Jesus being the chief corner-stone, and that you may become His true and finished disciples, perfect and entire, lacking nothing, but complete in all the will of God.

And now, dear brethren, I commend you to God and the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Amen.

Dear Friends, farewell ! May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.



**MEMOIRS**  
**OF THE**  
**LIFE, RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, MINISTERIAL**  
**TRAVELS, AND LABOURS**  
**OF**  
**MRS. ELAW.**

---

I WAS born in the United States of America, in the State of Pennsylvania, and of religious parents. When about six years of age, my mother's parents, who resided on their own farm, far in the interior of America, at a distance of many hundred miles, came to visit us. My parents had three children then living; the eldest, a boy about twelve years of age, myself, and a younger sister. On his return, my grandfather took my brother with him, promising to bring him up to the business of his farm; and I saw him not again until more than thirty years afterwards.

At twelve years of age I was bereaved of my mother, who died in child-birth of her twenty-second child, all of whom, with the exception of three, died in infancy. My father, having placed my younger sister under the care of her aunt, then consigned me to the care of Pierson and Rebecca Mitchel, with whom I remained until I attained the age of eighteen. After I had been



with the above-mentioned persons one year and six months, it pleased God to remove my dear father to the world of spirits; and, being thus bereft of my natural guardians, I had no other friends on earth to look to, but those kind benefactors under whom my dear father had placed me.

But that God whose mercy endureth for ever, still continued mindful of me; but oh, what a change did I experience in my new abode from that to which I had been accustomed. In my father's house, family devotion was regularly attended to morning and evening; prayer was offered up, and the praises of God were sung; but the persons with whom I now resided were Quakers, and their religious exercises, if they observed any, were performed in the secret silence of the mind; nor were religion and devotion referred to by them in my hearing, which rendered my transition from home the more strange; and, being very young, and no apparent religious restraint being laid upon me, I soon gave way to the evil propensities of an unregenerate heart, which is enmity against God, and heedlessly ran into the ways of sin, taking pleasure in the paths of folly. But that God, whose eyes are ever over all His handy works, suffered me not unchecked to pursue the courses of sin. My father's death frequently introduced very serious reflections into my mind; and often was I deeply affected, and constrained to weep before God, when no human eye beheld my emotion. But, notwithstanding these seasons of serious contrition, my associations with the juvenile members of the family were too generally marked by the accustomed gaities of a wanton heart. Our childish conversations sometimes turned upon the

day of judgment, and our appearance in the presence of the great God on that portentous occasion, which originated in my breast the most solemn emotions whenever I was alone; for I felt myself to be so exceedingly sinful, that I was certain of meeting with condemnation at the bar of God. I knew not what to do; nor were there any persons to whom I durst open my mind upon the subject, and therefore remained ignorant of the great remedy disclosed by the plan of salvation afforded by the gospel, and incapable of religious progress. I was at times deeply affected with penitence, but could not rightly comprehend what it was that ailed me. Sometimes I resolutely shook off all my impressions, and became more thoughtless than before; one instance, in particular, is so rivetted on my memory, that I shall never forget it when ever I glance back upon my youthful life. On this occasion I was talking very foolishly, and even ventured to take the name of God in vain, in order to cater to the sinful tastes of my companions; it well pleased their carnal minds, and they laughed with delight at my profanity; but, whilst I was in the very act of swearing, I looked up, and imagined that I saw God looking down and frowning upon me: my tongue was instantly silenced; and I retired from my frolicsome companions to reflect upon what I had said and done. To the praise of divine mercy, that God who willeth not the death of a sinner, but rather that all should turn unto him and live, did not even now abandon me, but called me by an effectual call through the following dream. It was a prevailing notion in that part of the world with many, that whatever a person dreamed between the times of twilight and sunrise, was propheti-

cally ominous, and would shortly come to pass; and, on that very night, after I had offended my heavenly Father by taking His name in vain, He aroused and alarmed my spirit, by presenting before me in a dream the awful terrors of the day of judgment, accompanied by its terrific thunders. I thought that the Angel Gabriel came and proclaimed that time should be no longer; and he said, "Jehovah was about to judge the world, and execute judgment on it." I then exclaimed in my dream, "Oh, Lord, what shall I do? I am unprepared to meet thee." I then meditated an escape, but could not effect it; and in this horrific dilemma I awoke: the day was just dawning; and the intense horror of my guilty mind was such as to defy description. I was now about fourteen years of age; and this dream proved an effectual call to my soul. I meditated deeply upon it, my spirits became greatly depressed, and I wept excessively. I was naturally of a very lively and active disposition, and the shock my feelings had sustained from this alarming dream, attracted the attention of my mistress, who inquired the reason of so great a change. I related my dream to her, and also stated my sentiments with respect to it: she used every endeavour to comfort me, saying that it was only a dream; that dreams have nothing ominous in them; and I ought not to give myself any more concern respecting it: but she failed in her attempt to tranquillize my mind, because the convictions of my sinfulness in the sight of God, and incompetency to meet my Judge, were immoveable and distressing. I now gave myself much to meditation, and lisped out my simple and feeble prayers to God, as well as my limited apprehensions and youth-



ful abilities admitted. About this time, the Methodists made their first appearance in that part of the country, and I was permitted to attend their meetings once a fortnight, on the Sabbath afternoons, from which I derived great satisfaction; but the divine work on my soul was a very gradual one, and my way was prepared as the dawning of the morning. I never experienced that terrific dread of hell by which some Christians appear to have been exercised; but I felt a godly sorrow for sin in having grieved my God by a course of disobedience to His commands. I had been trained to attend the Quaker meetings; and, on their preaching occasions, I was pleased to be in attendance, and often found comfort from the word ministered by them; but I was, notwithstanding, usually very much cast down on account of my sins before God; and in this state I continued many months before I could attain sufficient confidence to say, "My Lord and my God." But as the darkness was gradually dispelled, the light dawned upon my mind, and I increased in knowledge daily; yet I possessed no assurance of my acceptance before God; though I enjoyed a greater peace of mind in waiting upon my heavenly father than at any previous time; my prayer was daily for the Lord to assure me of the forgiveness of my sins; and I at length proved the verification of the promise, "They that seek shall find;" for, one evening, whilst singing one of the songs of Zion, I distinctly saw the Lord Jesus approach me with open arms, and a most divine and heavenly smile upon his countenance. As He advanced towards me, I felt that his very looks spoke, and said, "Thy prayer is accepted, I own thy name." From that day to the

present, I have never entertained a doubt of the manifestation of his love to my soul.

Yea, I may say further than this ; because, at the time when this occurrence took place, I was milking in the cow stall ; and the manifestation of his presence was so clearly apparent, that even the beast of the stall turned her head and bowed herself upon the ground. Oh, never, never shall I forget the scene. Some persons, perhaps, may be incredulous, and say, " How can these things be, and in what form did He appear ? " Dear reader, whoever thou art, into whose hands this narrative may fall, I will try to gratify thee by endeavouring to describe his manifestation. It occurred as I was singing the following lines :—

" Oh, when shall I see Jesus,  
And dwell with him above ;  
And drink from flowing fountains,  
Of everlasting love.  
When shall I be delivered  
From this vain world of sin ;  
And, with my blessed Jesus,  
Drink endless pleasures in ? "

As I was milking the cow and singing, I turned my head, and saw a tall figure approaching, who came and stood by me. He had long hair, which parted in the front and came down on his shoulders ; he wore a long white robe down to the feet ; and as he stood with open arms and smiled upon me, he disappeared. I might have tried to imagine, or persuade myself, perhaps, that it had been a vision presented merely to the eye of my mind ; but, the beast of the stall gave forth her evidence to the reality of the heavenly appearance ; for she turned

her head and looked round as I did ; and when she saw, she bowed her knees and cowered down upon the ground. I was overwhelmed with astonishment at the sight, but the thing was certain and beyond all doubt. I write as before God and Christ, and declare, as I shall give an account to my Judge at the great day, that every thing I have written in this little book, has been written with conscientious veracity and scrupulous adherence to truth.

After this wonderful manifestation of my condescending Saviour, the peace of God which passeth understanding was communicated to my heart ; and joy in the Holy Ghost, to a degree, at the least, unutterable by my tongue and indescribable by my pen ; it was beyond my comprehension ; but, from that happy hour, my soul was set at glorious liberty ; and, like the Ethiopic eunuch, I went on my way rejoicing in the blooming prospects of a better inheritance with the saints in light.

This, my dear reader, was the manner of my soul's conversion to God, told in language unvarnished by the graces of educated eloquence, nor transcending the capacity of a child to understand.

The love of God being now shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Spirit, and my soul transported with heavenly peace and joy in God, all the former hardships which pertained to my circumstances and situation vanished ; the work and duties which had previously been hard and irksome were now become easy and pleasant ; and the evil propensities of my disposition and temper were subdued beneath the softening and refining pressure of divine grace upon my heart.



In the year 1808, I united myself in the fellowship of the saints with the militant church of Jesus on earth ; and I can never forget that memorable evening on which I went up formally to present my hand to the brethren, and my heart for ever to the Lord.

I was received by the travelling preacher, the Rev. J. Polhemus. After sermon, he conducted the class ; in the course of which he inquired if there were any persons present who desired to join the society : I then arose from my seat, and replied, " Yes, bless the Lord, here is one." He fixed his eyes upon me for a short time, and said, " Well, this seems a bold champion indeed." He then asked me the reason of my hope in Christ ; if I enjoyed the evidence and witness of the Holy Spirit ; if I calculated that I should be able to hold out to the end ; and many very important questions besides ; cautioning me against the deceptive imagination that the testimony I had given before the brethren, which had been witnessed by angels, or my union with the church, would alone be sufficient for my salvation. He then inquired if there existed any objections against my admission as a member of the Methodist Episcopal Society ; and there being none, he entered my name into the class book of the society. I then returned home, meditating on that which I had heard and done, and praying that God would bestow on me sufficient grace to enable me to perform all his righteous will. Truly, in those days, my peace flowed as a river, and the light of God's countenance continually shone upon me ; my path grew brighter and brighter, and my soul was stayed upon his gracious word and promises.

But, notwithstanding this tide of divine comforts so

richly replenished my soul, Satan, my great adversary, frequently assailed me with various trials and temptations, and the young folks often derided me as being a Methodist: it was my happiness to be such, and I thanked God who counted me meet to be a partaker of the heavenly calling. I sometimes met with very severe rebukes from my mistress, and I endured her reproofs without the exhibition of my former resentments and saucy replies: whatever storm arose, I was hid in the cleft of the rock until it was blown over. How vast a source of consolation did I derive from habitual communion with my God; to Him I repaired in secret to acquaint Him with all my griefs, and obtained both sympathy and succour. At such times, an overflowing stream of love has filled my soul, even beyond my utmost capacity to contain, and I have thought, when in such ecstasies of bliss, that I should certainly die under them, and go to my heavenly father at once, from an earthly to an heavenly transport; for I could not imagine it possible for any human being to feel such gusts of the love of God, and continue to exist in this world of sin.

But it was with me as with the great apostle of the Gentiles; when I was a child I thought as a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child; but when I attained to maturity, I put away childish things. For as an earthly father pitieth his children, so does our Heavenly Father pity those who fear Him: they who serve Him in the time of peace, He will not abandon in the times of war and conflict, which in our probation here it behoves us to pass through. He has promised to carry the young Lambs in His bosom; and He verified that promise, in my experience, in the day of my trouble.

Many were the tears which overflowed my eyes, and indicated the sorrows of my heart, and which none but God was the witness of. There were no persons in the house in which I resided, to whom I could at any time open my mind; for the knowledge of God was possessed by none in that family with the exception of my master, and amongst them I dwelt as a speckled bird; but the want of suitable associates, and the singularity with which I was treated, drove me to God my refuge, and proved very congenial to increased intimacy of communion with Him.

Prior to my experience of the life and power of godliness, my mistress frequently charged me with pertness and insolent behaviour; but after I had imbibed somewhat of the meekness and gentleness of Jesus, and had been instructed by his religion not to answer again when chided, then she frequently charged me with sullenness and mopishness. This treatment often sent me to the throne of grace, to seek the sympathy of Him who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. I now felt, bitterly, the loss of my dear mother, whose earthly remains had long since been consigned to the house appointed for all living, and her spirit made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light, in which I hope to meet her at the right hand of God. Oh, how often do I think of the advantages enjoyed by many young people, who are blessed with dear and godly parents, and of the little estimation they are held in by too many perverse and giddy children, who, instead of greatly prizing the grace conferred upon them, resent the kind restraints of family worship and attendance at the house of God. Some of them, perhaps, may

ultimately be led as I was, when their parents are gathered to the generation of their fathers, to pine after the privileges which they had once despised and finally lost. See ye to it, ye careless, giddy, perverse young folks, while the light of parental godliness yet illumines the house; prize it, imbibe it, conform yourselves to and profit by it, that the fervent petitions of your pious parents, in your behalf, may be prevailingly successful, by the production of a spirit of prayer in yourselves, and the bowing of your souls to God.

Before I knew the power of real religion. I was timid and fearful when alone in the dark; and if I had recently heard of the death of any person, even if it had occurred at a distance of twelve miles, I durst not go out of doors at night alone, from the superstitious dread of seeing their apparition, and to pass a grave-yard alone was terrible indeed; but when the Lord had spoken peace to my soul, by the manifestation of Christ, my fear was removed; and my heavenly Father instructed me in reference to departed spirits, that if they slept in Jesus they would have no desire again to visit this world of sorrow; and if, on the other hand, they had died under the power and dominion of Satan, he would surely retain them safely in his custody, and not allow of their enlargement. I thus was freed from the terror by night, and dwelt secure under the protection of the Almighty.

The place of meeting for the class I was connected with, was two miles distant from my abode, and my way thither lay near two grave-yards; but, thanks be unto God, I had no dread upon my mind as I passed them continually on my way to and return from the

class meeting; and I counted this as strong evidence of a great privilege to a heart renewed by divine and omnipotent grace; to God be all the praise! It is to be considered that a two miles journey in the more rural territories of the United States, is very different from the same distance along the streets or well frequented roads of England: across the lonely fields, and through the dark and hazy woods at night, the way is awfully silent and frightfully wild; but these nocturnal walks were to me seasons of sweet communion with my God: I went on my way rejoicing; fervent prayers and heavenly meditation were to me the very elements of life; my meat and drink by day and night. My delights were to follow the leadings and obey the dictates of the Holy Spirit, and glorify with my body and spirit my Father who is in heaven. I enjoyed richly the spirit of adoption: knowing myself to be an adopted child of divine love, I claimed God as my Father, and his Son Jesus as my dear friend, who adhered to me more faithfully in goodness than a brother: and with my blessed Saviour, Redeemer, Intercessor, and Patron, I enjoyed a delightful heavenly communion, such as the world has never conceived of.

Thus I passed three happy years after my conversion, growing in grace and in the knowledge of God. At the commencement of my religious course, I was deplorably ignorant and dark; but the Lord himself was graciously pleased to become my teacher, instructing me by his Holy Spirit, in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. It was not by the aid of human instruments that I was first drawn to Christ; and it was by the Lord alone that I was upheld, confirmed, instructed, sanctified, and directed.



The persons who become members of the Methodist societies in America are first introduced to the class, which they attend for six months on probation; at the expiration of which, if their conduct has been consistent with their professions, they are baptised, and accounted full members of the society. After I had completed my six months probation, I was baptised by the Rev. Joseph Lybrand; and I shall never forget the heavenly impression I felt on that joyfully solemn occasion. Truly the one Spirit of Jesus doth by means of His ministers, baptise us into the one body of Jesus. 1 Cor. xii. 13. When he said, "I baptise thee into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen," I was so overwhelmed with the love of God, that self seemed annihilated: I was completely lost and absorbed in the divine fascinations. The Rev. Divine then added, "Be thou faithful unto death, and thou shalt receive a crown of life; and, 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do with all thy might;' for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I was now accounted a full member of the society, and privileged with the communion of the Lord's Supper. In this happy home I continued nearly seven years, and only parted from it when I left my situation.

In the year 1810, I surrendered myself in marriage to Joseph Elaw, a very respectable young man, in the general acceptance of the term, but he was not a Christian,—that is, a sincere and devoted disciple of Christ, though nominally bearing His name. Oh! let me affectionately warn my dear unmarried sisters in Christ, against being thus unequally yoked with unbelievers. In general your lot would be better, if a millstone were



hung about your necks, and you were drowned in the depths of the sea, than that you should disobey the law of Jesus, and plunge yourselves into all the sorrows, sins, and anomalies involved in a matrimonial alliance with an unbeliever. This mischief frequently emanates from the delusive sentiments in which the female portion of the Christian community is steeped. Young ladies imagine themselves their own mistresses before they are able to shift for themselves; and especially when they attain the legal maturity fixed by the civil law. Pride, consequential haughtiness, and independent arrogance in females, are the worst vices of humanity, and are denounced in the Scriptures as insuring the severest retributions of God. Isaiah iii. 16—24. The laws of Scripture invest parents with the trust and control of their daughter, until the time, be it early or late in life, when the father surrenders her in marriage to the care and government of a husband; then, and not till then, the guardianship and government of her father over her ceases; and then, formed as she is by nature for subordination, she becomes the endowment and is subject to the authority of her husband. The boastful speeches too often vented by young females against either the paternal yoke or the government of a husband, is both indecent and impious—conveying a wanton disrespect to the regulations of Scripture; the fancied independence and self-control in which they indulge, has no foundation either in nature or Scripture, and is prolific with the worst results both to religion and society. That woman is dependant on and subject to man, is the dictate of nature; that the man is not created for the woman, but the woman for the man, is that of Scripture.

these principles lie at the foundation of the family and social systems; and their violation is a very immoral and guilty act. These remarks will not, I trust, be out of place here. I now observe, in reference to the marriage of a Christian with an unbeliever, that there is not, there cannot be in it, that mutual sympathy and affectionate accordance which exists in the marriage lives of devoted Christians, when both parties are cordially progressing on the king's highway. How discordant are the sentiments, tastes, and feelings of the Christian and unbeliever, when unequally, and I may say, wickedly allied together in the marriage state. The worldly man displays his settled aversion to the things of religion, and especially against the sincerity and tenacity with which his believing partner adheres to them; and on the other hand, the believer displays his settled abhorrence of the things of the world, to which he is crucified and dead; nor can the strength of any carnal attachment betwixt the parties, or the utmost stretch of courtesy on both sides, ever reconcile the radical opposition of their principles. If the saint winks at the worldly course pursued by his partner, he evidences the weakness of Christian principle in himself, is unfaithful to his profession, and perfidious to the King of kings; if he reproveth it, he involves the household in strife, his own soul in vexation, and perils it by wrath. Besides, the wife is destined to be the help-meet of her husband; but if he be a worldly man, she cannot, she dare not be either his instrument or abettor in worldly lusts and sinful pursuits; if he be a saint, and she a child of wrath, she is not his help-meet, but his drawback and curse; and in either case she possesses the title or name

of a wife without the qualification, viz. that of a helpmeet. By the Jewish law, the marriage of a Jew with a woman of a prohibited nation, was not accounted marriage, but fornication, Ezra x. 11, Hebrews xii. 16; and it is a very serious impropriety also under the Christian dispensation. I am aware that when once the carnal courtship is commenced, the ensnared Christian fondly imagines that he shall soon be able to persuade his unregenerate companion to think as he does, and also to love and serve God with him; and on the other hand, the carnal suitor accounts religion as mere whimsy and pretence, and flatters himself that he shall soon divert the object of his desire from so melancholy and superstitious a pursuit; and thus both of them are miserably deceived, and miss of that happiness they so fallaciously had dreamt of. I am sorry to say, I know something of this by experience. My dear husband had been a member of the society to which I belonged, and had been afterwards disowned by them; but I could not regard him as a backslider from religion, for I am of opinion that he had never tasted of the pardoning love of God through the atonement of Jesus Christ. He made me many promises that he would again unite with the Church, and try to devote his life to the service of God; but they were never fulfilled. After we had been married about a year, he resolved to use every means to induce me to renounce my religion, and abolish my attendance at the meeting-house. It was then that my troubles began, and grew so severe, that I knew not what to do; but that God who is a present help in every time of need was with me still, and enabled me to endure every trial with meekness; and when suffer-



ing his keenest chidings for my attendance at the meeting-house, I kept my mouth as with a bridle, and sinned not with my tongue. He was passionately fond of music and dancing, and determined to introduce me to such amusements; thinking that I should be as delighted as himself with the merriments of the world, and hoping thereby to accomplish his object: but that God whom I served night and day, preserved me in the hour of temptation, and shielded me from harm. We resided about twenty miles from Philadelphia, a city of great note in America, and which I had never yet seen. An opportunity at length was presented for us to repair thither; and my dear husband projected my introduction to his favourite resort—the ball-room, on our visit to this great city. We accordingly travelled to Philadelphia; and after we had been there a few days, we went to take a walk and view the different edifices and parts of the city: he then conducted me into a place which I quickly recognised as a ball-room; for the violin struck up, and the people began to caper the merry dance, and take their fill of pleasure. The tones of the music and the boundings of the people were to me like awful peals of thunder; and all I could do was to weep before God. I often think and say,

“Where’er I am, where’er I move,  
I meet the object of my love.”


Although I was then in a ball-room, I think that I never heard a sermon that preached more impressively to me than the display I witnessed there, in the din and scenery of that vapourish bubble of worldly gaiety and pleasure. Well might the wise man exclaim, “All is vanity and vexation of spirit!”

From the ill success of this wretched experiment, my dear husband found his expectations disappointed, and he never after urged me to accompany him to such places,—to God be all the praise! We soon returned home; and I continued on my course, blessing and praising God for his kind preserving care of me in the perilous hour of temptation.

My husband was a fuller by trade; and when the embargo was laid on British vessels, all traffic ceased betwixt the two nations: the cloth manufacturers in the States enlarged their business very extensively, and the demand for hands was urgent. By this turn of affairs we were induced to remove our place of residence to the city of Burlington, in the state of New Jersey, which was to me a happy removal indeed; and I plainly read the indications of the Lord's goodness in it: for the class assembled at a house but a few doors from mine; the chapel was also near, and I more plentifully enjoyed the means of grace, and grew thereby. Highly did I prize these precious privileges, for I grew in grace daily, and in the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. With cheerful gratitude and paramount peace could I sing these lines—

"How happy every child of grace,  
Who knows his sins forgiven;  
This earth, he cries, is not my place,  
I seek my rest in Heaven."

I am compelled to omit much interesting and important matter relative to my religious experience and life, and pass to the more strikingly eventful points, lest I should swell these pages beyond my present limited means for the press.





In the year 1817, I attended an American camp-meeting. Oh, how I should like our dear English friends to witness some of our delightful camp meetings, which are held in the groves of the United States. There many thousands assemble in the open air, and beneath the overspreading bowers, to own and worship our common Lord, the Proprietor of the Universe; there all arise and sing the solemn praises of the King of majesty and glory. It is like heaven descended upon an earthly soil, when all unite to

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.”

The hardest hearts are melted into tenderness; the driest eyes overflow with tears, and the loftiest spirits bow down: the Creator's works are gazed upon, and His near presence felt around.

In order to form a camp meeting, when the place and time of meeting has been extensively published, each family takes its own tent, and all things necessary for lodgings, with seats, provisions and servants; and with waggons and other vehicles repair to the destined spot, which is generally some wildy rural and wooded retreat in the back grounds of the interior: hundreds of families, and thousands of persons, are seen pressing to the place from all quarters: the meeting usually continues for a week or more: a large circular inclosure of brushwood is formed; immediately inside of which the tents are pitched, and the space in the centre is appropriated to the worship of God, the minister's stand being on one side, and generally on a somewhat rising ground. It is a scaffold constructed of boards, and surrounded with a fence of rails.



In the space before the platform, seats are placed sufficient to seat four or five thousand persons ; and at night the woods are illuminated ; there are generally four large mounds of earth constructed, and on them large piles of pine knots are collected and ignited, which make a wonderful blaze and burn a long time ; there are also candles and lamps hung about in the trees, together with a light in every tent, and the minister's stand is brilliantly lighted up ; so that the illumination attendant upon a camp-meeting, is a magnificently solemn scene. The worship commences in the morning before sunrise ; the watchmen proceed round the inclosure, blowing with trumpets to awaken every inhabitant of this City of the Lord ; they then proceed again round the camp, to summon the inmates of every tent to their family devotions ; after which they partake of breakfast, and are again summoned by sound of trumpet to public prayer meeting at the altar which is placed in front of the preaching stand. Many precious souls are on these occasions introduced into the liberty of the children of God ; at the close of the prayer meeting the grove is teeming with life and activity ; the numberless private conferences, the salutations of old friends again meeting in the flesh, the earnest inquiries of sinners, the pressing exhortations of anxious saints, the concourse of pedestrians, the arrival of horses and carriages of all descriptions render the scene portentously interesting and intensely surprising. At ten o'clock, the trumpets sound again to summon the people to public worship ; the seats are all speedily filled, and as perfect a silence reigns throughout the place as in a Church or Chapel ; presently the high praises of God sound melodiously from this conse-

crated spot, and nothing seems wanting but local elevation to render the place a heaven indeed. It is like God's ancient and holy hill of Zion on her brightest festival days, when the priests conducted the processions of the people to the glorious temple of Jehovah. At the conclusion of the service, the people repair to their tents or other rendezvous to dinner ; at the termination of which prayers are offered up, and hymns are sung in the tents, and in the different groups scattered over the ground ; and many precious souls enter into the liberty of God's dear children. At two o'clock, a public prayer-meeting commences at the stand, and is continued till three, when the ministers preach again to the people. At six o'clock in the evening, the public services commence again as before ; and at the hour of ten, the trumpet is blown as a signal for all to retire to rest ; and those who are unprovided with lodgings, leave the ground. On the last morning of the camp meeting, which is continued for a week, a solemn love feast is held ; after which, all the tents are struck and every thing put in readiness for departure ; the ministers finally form themselves in procession, and march round the encampment ; the people falling into rank and following them. At length the ministers turn aside from the rank, stand still, and commence singing a solemn farewell hymn ; and as the different ranks of the people march by, they shake hands with their pastors, take an affectionate farewell of them, and pass on in procession, until the last or rear rank have taken their adieu. This farewell scene is a most moving and affecting occasion. Hundreds of Christians, dear to each other and beloved in the Spirit, embrace each other for the last time, and

part to meet no more, until the morning of the resurrection; and many a stout-hearted sinner has been so shaken to pieces at the pathetic sight, as to fall into deep conviction of his depravity before God, which has ended in genuine repentance and saving conversion to Christ. I, for one, have great reason to thank God for the refreshing seasons of his mighty grace, which have accompanied these great meetings of his saints in the wilderness. It was at one of these meetings that God was pleased to separate my soul unto Himself, to sanctify me as a vessel designed for honour, made meet for the master's use. Whether I was in the body, or whether I was out of the body, on that auspicious day, I cannot say; but this I do know, that at the conclusion of a most powerful sermon delivered by one of the ministers from the platform, and while the congregation were in prayer, I became so overpowered with the presence of God, that I sank down upon the ground, and laid there for a considerable time; and while I was thus prostrate on the earth, my spirit seemed to ascend up into the clear circle of the sun's disc; and, surrounded and engulphed in the glorious effulgence of his rays, I distinctly heard a voice speak unto me, which said, "Now thou art sanctified; and I will show thee what thou must do." I saw no personal appearance while in this stupendous elevation, but I discerned bodies of resplendent light; nor did I appear to be in this world at all, but immensely far above those spreading trees, beneath whose shady and verdant bowers I was then reclined. When I recovered from the trance or ecstasy into which I had fallen, the first thing I observed was, that hundreds of persons were standing around me

weeping ; and I clearly saw by the light of the Holy Ghost, that my heart and soul were rendered completely spotless—as clean as a sheet of white paper, and I felt as pure as if I had never sinned in all my life ; a solemn stillness rested upon my soul :

“ The speechless awe that dares not move,  
And all the silent heaven of love.”

Truly I durst not move, because God was so powerfully near to me ; for the space of several hours I appeared not to be on earth, but far above all earthly things. I had not at this time offered up public prayer on the camp ground ; but when the prayer meeting afterwards commenced, the Lord opened my mouth in public prayer ; and while I was thus engaged, it seemed as if I heard my God rustling in the tops of the mulberry-trees. Oh, how precious was this day to my soul ! I was after this very frequently requested to present my petitions to the throne of grace in the public meetings at the camp ; and to my astonishment, during one of the services, an old gentleman and his wife, whose heads were blanched by the frost of time, came to me, fell upon their knees, and desired me to pray for them, as also many others whom I expect to meet in a happier world : and before the meeting at this camp closed, it was revealed to me by the Holy Spirit, that like another Phœbe, or the matrons of the apostolic societies, I must employ myself in visiting families, and in speaking personally to the members thereof, of the salvation and eternal interests of their souls, visit the sick, and attend upon other of the errands and services of the Lord ; which I afterwards cheerfully did, not confining my visits to the poor only, but extending them to the rich also, and even to those who sit in



high places in the state ; and the Lord was with me in the work to own and bless my labours. Like Enoch, I walked and talked with God : nor did a single cloud intervene betwixt God and my soul for many months after.

But Satan at length succeeded in producing a cloud over my mind, and in damping the delightful ardours of my soul in these blessed labours, by suggesting, that I ought not to make so bold a profession of an entire sanctification and holiness of spirit, lest I should be unable at all times to maintain it ; and to this evil suggestion I sinfully acceded, and dilated chiefly in my visits on the goodness of God ; and much ceased to enforce that high attainment, and to witness to the indwelling presence and superintending sway of the Holy Spirit in a clean and obedient heart, which I had so powerfully experienced ; but alas ! I soon proved that to God must be cheerfully ascribed the glory, or he will not vouchsafe to us a continuance of the happy enjoyment.

I write this as a warning to others who may be attacked with the same temptation, that they may be careful not thus to grieve the Holy Spirit of God : but ever remember, that we are witnesses of that gracious passage of Scripture, " This is the will of God, even your sanctification." " For this the Saviour prayed on behalf of his disciples, ' Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth : ' " and Peter says, " Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit : " and " As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." As, therefore, this blessed doctrine is most certainly believed by us



Methodists, it is both our high privilege and bounden duty to manifest it to those around us; and, in default thereof, we shall bring clouds of darkness upon our souls.

I shall here narrate a very extraordinary circumstance which occurred in the family of Mr. Boudinot, one of the richest gentlemen in the city of Burlington. The Lord bade me repair to this gentleman's residence, and deliver a gospel message to him. I was astounded at the idea of going to such a man, to talk to him of the condition of his soul; and began to reason with myself as to the propriety thereof. Satan also suggested that a man of his rank and dignity would not listen to such a poor, ignorant creature as myself. I therefore concluded, that possibly I might be mistaken about this message, and that it might have arisen in my imagination merely, and not have come from God. I accordingly decided in my mind that I would not go to him. But oh! how soon did my heavenly Master show me that I had disobeyed his high commands, given me by the impression of his Spirit upon my heart; for I habitually enjoyed so clear an illumination of the divine presence and glory upon my soul, a conscience so pure, and an eye so single, that the slightest omission would produce the intervention of a cloud and an obscuration of the divine ray upon my spirit; and thus I felt on this occasion, being deprived of the divine ray, and of the peculiar zest and nearness of divine intercourse I had hitherto enjoyed with my heavenly Father. I endeavoured to search out and ascertain the reason, why the lustre of my Father's countenance was obscured upon my soul; for so manifest was the gloom on my spirit, that even

my class leader said, " Why, how is this Zilpha, that you appear less lively than you did a week or two since ?" yet I still remained ignorant of the cause thereof; but on the next class evening, one of the itinerating ministers presided, and he gave forth the following lines to be sung—

" Jesus, the hindrance show,  
Which I have feared to see ;  
And let me now consent to know,  
What keeps me back from Thee."

While singing these lines, I was led to discover that I had not obeyed the call of the Lord, by refusing to go to Mr. Boudinot's, as I had been directed.

" In me is all the bar,  
Which God would fain remove :  
Remove it ; and I shall declare,  
That God is only love."

I then laid open my case before my dear minister : and I shall never forget the kind and excellent advice he gave me upon that occasion. I never durst take any important step without first consulting my superiors ; and having informed him of the painful exercises of mind I had passed through, and of the disregard I had paid to my heavenly direction, he advised me, by all means, to go whither I had been directed, and no more confer with flesh and blood ; but proceed in the course of duty and obedience, leaving the event to God, before whose judgment-seat we shall all stand to give an account of our stewardship. Upon this, I again sought my heavenly Father at the throne of grace, promising that I would go in His name, whither he had sent me, if He would be pleased to restore to

me the light of his countenance and Spirit; and He graciously favoured me with the request of my heart.

I then went to the residence of Mr. Elias Boudinot, and had access to all who were in his house; and it was a day for ever to be remembered; for such an outpouring of divine unction took place, as I never witnessed in all my life. All other matters were laid aside but that of religion; and little was to be seen but weeping and mourning. Some of us were occupied in praising the Lord, but most of the household were weeping the penitential tear for their sins. There were company visiting at the house at the time, and when dinner was ready, there were none to come and partake of it; we had quite a search to find, and some trouble to induce them to come to dinner. One lady, who was then on a visit there, had shut herself up in her apartment to read the New Testament; another was shut up in another apartment; one of the servants had locked himself up in the pantry, and there he cried aloud upon God for mercy. It was a day of wonders, indeed! Oh, that so gracious a visitation might come upon thousands of families in England! How sweet is the path of obedience! God will bless while man obeys; "for what his mouth hath said, his own almighty hand will do." I again enjoyed a full measure of the Holy Spirit, and kept that sacred, hallowed fire alive in my soul; to God be all the praise!

I thus attended to my Master's business in this and similar spheres of effort for the space of five years; during which period, much good resulted from the attempts of so simple and weak an instrument as myself; because directed by the wisdom, and sustained by

the mighty power of God. Five happy years, on the whole, were they indeed to me ; notwithstanding that I had many sorrows and grievous trials to endure and contend with.

“ Trials must and will befall ;  
But with humble faith to see,  
Love inscribed upon them all,  
This is happiness to me.”

The bitters of my cup were continually sweetened by the smiles of Jesus ; and all things went on easy, because my heavenly Father took the heaviest end of the cross and bore it with me : thus the crooked was made straight, and the rough became smooth.

In 1816, I had a presentiment on my mind of a speedy dissolution ; and felt so confident in this expectation, that, when in the class-meeting, I could not forbear from speaking in a strain which implied my speedy departure. My leader inquired if I was about to leave Burlington ? Upon which, I opened my mind to him, and the train of my feelings ; he made no comment upon it at the time ; and in the week following, I accidentally met with a severe fall, by which I was so injured internally, as to allow no presage of recovery ; my medical attendant pronounced it impossible that I could live, and my friends for many days looked to see me breathe my last ; but God ordered it otherwise to every expectation.

While I was thus lying without one step betwixt me and death, a dear lady, who was a preaching Quakeress, came to see me, and take a last farewell, not expecting to see me again in this life, as she was about taking a religious tour in the country. She affectionately told me she hoped that all would be well with me, and that



we should again meet in a better world, though we might meet no more in the flesh. But though my recovery was very gradual indeed, yet it pleased God to raise me up again; and then, with what renewed pleasure did I sit under the sound of the glorious gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and resume the work of my heavenly Master, going forth in his great name from day to day, and holding sweet converse with my God, as a man converses with his friend. This family or household ministry, as I may call it, was a particular duty, a special calling, which I received from the Lord to discharge for the space of five years; at the expiration of which, it was taken from me, and consigned to another sister in the same class with myself. How wonderful are the works of the Almighty, and his ways past finding out by the children of men! I was often so happy in this work as to be quite unable to contain myself; sometimes I cried out, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" for it seemed as if the Lord had yet something more in reserve for me to undertake.

I had at this time but one sister living, who resided in Philadelphia, about twenty miles distant from Burlington; she was the only sister, who with myself arrived at years of maturity; a very pious woman, and she conducted herself very strictly and exemplarily in all her movements: she was so sanctified and devoted a Christian, that some persons have informed me, that they have sat with her in their meetings, and received much edification from beholding the earnest devotedness of mind she manifested in the house of God; thus, "as iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the countenance of a man his friend."



This dear sister of mine was at length attacked with a mortal disease, and intelligence of her illness was communicated to me. I therefore repaired to Philadelphia; and, on entering the room, I found her so emaciated and altered in appearance, that I scarcely knew her; but in so happy a frame of mind, that the body seemed almost unable to detain so heavenly a spirit. As I stood by her bed-side weeping, she said,

“ I'll take my sister by the hand,  
And lead her to the promised land.”

Thus I found her; and after staying with her a few days, thus I left her, and returned home to Burlington. But being pressed with concern for her, I could not long rest at home; I therefore arranged my affairs there, and taking my little daughter with me, set off again for Philadelphia. When I arrived at the house of my brother-in-law, I went directly into the chamber where my sister was lying; and the first thing she said to me was, “ My dear sister, I am going to hell.” I had not either spoken or sat down in the house; but upon hearing this, I kneeled down and tried to pray; but she instantly exclaimed, “ Oh, do not pray, for you will only send me the sooner to judgment!” My astonishment was immense at finding her in such an altered condition of mind; for only a fortnight previously she was exulting in the high praises of God, completely weaned from all things of an earthly nature, and longing to depart to the world of spirits. Many kind brethren and sisters visited her, and prayer was made day and night unto God for her, that her soul might be released from the bonds of darkness; but she remained in this horrible state for nearly a week after

my arrival. Some of the ministers bade me not to be discouraged on her account; saying that for they had witnessed others who had been in a similar condition, and had afterwards experienced a most powerful deliverance. I had never before heard of such a case, much less witnessed one; and it was equally as surprising as it was afflictive to me; but the Spirit of God at times whispered in my heart, "Be of good cheer, thou shalt yet see the glory of God." My faith and hope were thereby strengthened; yet the sorrowful sight of my poor dear sister opposing every effort of the friends to pray with and for her, did not a little, at intervals, deject and cast me down. Thanks be unto God, the hour at last arrived when he was pleased to burst through the gloom, and set the captive free. A number of the friends had assembled in the house, and we joined in prayer together; after several friends had prayed, in a moment such a spirit of prayer came upon me, as seemed to shake the whole place, as at the memorable apostolic prayer-meeting. Acts v. 31. I immediately commenced praying; and while thus engaged, my dear sister exclaimed aloud, "Look up, children, the Master is coming!" and she shouted, "Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace; for I again have found Jesus, the chiefest among ten thousand. Honour and glory, and majesty and power, be given to Him for ever and ever." "Now," said she, "turn me round, and let me die in the arms of Jesus; for I shall soon be with Him in glory." We then turned her over on her other side, as she requested, and awaited the event; she then swooned away, and lay for some time to all appearance dead.



What will infidelity say to this? It surely will not attempt to charge a sincere and godly Christian on her death-bed with hypocrisy; nor can it be consistently attributed to fanaticism. The antagonising conflicts of Christian faith, and its triumphs through the aids of the Holy Spirit over the powers of darkness, as exemplified on such occasions, are very remote from the whimsical vagaries of an over-heated and incoherent imagination; such experience, under certain circumstances, is the natural cause and effect of exercise of Christian faith, in collision with forces asserted by the gospel to be engaged in hostile action to it; and it is a fact worthy of extensive observation, that the vast variety of mental exercises and religious experiences of all true and lively Christians, in every grade of society, in all ages, and in all denominations and sections of the Christian Church, are of too uniform and definite a character to be ascribed to the wild and fluctuating uncertainties of fanaticism: so widely spread an uniformity as that which exists in the genuine pilgrim's progress of Christian experience, can never be philosophically shewn to be an attribute of fanaticism; an uniformity, like that of the human constitution, admitting of the greatest variety of individual features, yet all governed by the same laws; and it may be retorted also, that stubborn facts continually prove, in other countries as well as in modern Gaul, that no fanaticism is more luxuriant, bewitching, and arrogant, than that which inscribes on its ensign—"The Age of Reason," and roots itself in the soil of infidelity.

After my dear sister had laid in a swoon for some time, she revived, and said, amongst other things which

I could not remember, "I have overcome the world by the kingdom of heaven;" she then began singing, and appeared to sing several verses; but the language in which she sung was too wonderful for me, and I could not understand it. We all sat or stood around her with great astonishment, for her voice was as clear, musical, and strong, as if nothing had ailed her; and when she had finished her song of praise, (for it was indeed a song of praise, and the place was full of glory,) she addressed herself to me, and informed me, that she had seen Jesus, and had been in the society of angels; and that an angel came to her, and bade her tell Zilpha that she must preach the gospel; and also, that I must go to a lady named Fisher, a Quakeress, and she would tell me further what I should do. It was then betwixt one and two o'clock in the morning, and she wished me to go directly to visit this lady, and also to commence my ministry of preaching, by delivering an address to the people then in the house. I cannot describe my feelings at this juncture; I knew not what to do, nor where to go; and my dear sister was pressingly urgent for me to begin and preach directly; and then to go and see the above-named lady. I was utterly at a loss what to say, or how to move; dear heart, she waited in silence for my commencing, and I stood in silence quite overwhelmed by my feelings. At length, she raised her head up, and said, "Oh, Zilpha! why do you not begin?" I then tried to say something as I stood occupied in mental prayer; but she said, "Oh! do not pray, you must preach." I then addressed a few words to those around me, and she was very much pleased with the attempt: two of



the sisters then took me by the arm, and led me into another room; they there informed me they expected to see me sink down upon the floor, and that they thought my sister was perhaps a little delirious. The next day when I was alone with her, she asked me if that hymn which she had sung on the previous night was not beautiful; adding, "Ah, Zilpha! angels gave it me to sing; and I was told that you must be a preacher; and oh! how you hurt me last night by not going where I told you; but as soon as you moved, I was released." She continued in this happy frame of mind until her soul fell asleep in Jesus. The whole of this sick-bed scene, until its termination in death, was as surpassingly wonderful to me, as a Christian, for its depths of religious experience and power, as it was afflictively interesting to me as a relative. I have, however, since learnt that some other Christians have occasionally been known, when in the very arms of death, to break forth and sing with a melodious and heavenly voice, several verses in a language unknown to mortals. A pure language, unalloyed by the fulsome compliment, the hyperbole, the tautology and circumlocution, the insinuation, double meaning and vagueness, the weakness and poverty, the impurity, bombast, and other defects, with which all human languages are clogged, seems to be essential to the associations of glorified spirits and the elevated devotions of heaven, are, doubtless, in use among the holy angels, and seems to be a matter of gracious promise on the part of Jehovah, on behalf of his redeemed people. Zephaniah iii. 9.

I have been very careful, and the more minute in narrating the experience of my dear sister during her

illness and death, in hope that it may possibly meet the cases of others tempted in a similar manner; that they may take encouragement from her happy and triumphant end. She had evidently grieved the Holy Spirit in some way or other, and He had withdrawn from her His comforting presence for a time; but He returned to her again with abundant mercy and comforting grace. After receiving a little refreshment, the last words she spoke were, "Now I want a good prayer;" her husband then commenced prayer; and during the exercise, her happy spirit bade adieu to the frailties and sorrows of this mortal life, prepared for, and assured of, her title to a jointure in the ever-blooming glories of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Notwithstanding the plain and pointed declaration of my sister, and though the Scriptures assert that not many wise, rich, and noble are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, and the weak things of the world to confound the mighty, I could not at the time imagine it possible that God should select and appoint so poor and ignorant a creature as myself to be his messenger, to bear the good tidings of the gospel to the children of men. Soon after this, I received a visit from a female who was employed in the work of the ministry, who asked me if I did not think that I was called by the Lord to that work? to which I replied in the negative; she then said, "I think you are; now tell me, do not passages of Scripture often open to thy mind as subjects for public speaking and exposition? Weigh well this matter and see; for I believe that God has provided a great work for thy employment."

But still I could not believe that any such line of duty was enjoined upon me. Though one intimation came after another, and I had warning after warning, to prepare me for and urge me to it, I went on from one degree to another, without seriously and earnestly entertaining the subject ; yet I often reflected on that which had been expressed by this kind friend, and especially on what had fallen from the lips of my dear sister Hannah but a short time previously to her death ; but I kept these things very reservedly to myself, and pondered them in my heart, as did Mary the mother of Christ. Besides all this, I continually endured such sore trials from my poor unconverted husband, as powerfully operated to deter me from the thought of such an undertaking ; but on the other hand, when I had been contemplating the wonderful works of creation, or revelation of the mind and truth of God to man, by the inspiration of his prophets, I have been lost in astonishment at the perception of a voice, which either externally or internally, has spoken to me, and revealed to my understanding many surprising and precious truths. I have often started at having my solitary, contemplative silence thus broken ; and looked around me as if with the view of discovering or recognising the ethereal attendant who so kindly ministered to me, Heb. ii. 14 ; not, indeed, with the slightest alarm, though with much wonder ; for I enjoyed so intimate and heavenly an intercourse with God, that I was assured He had sent an angel to instruct me in such of His holy mysteries as were otherwise beyond my comprehension. Such communications were most gratifying and delightful to me ; yet I had not sagacity sufficient to discern,

that, gifted with such an aid as this, I had a sufficiency from God for the proclamation of his gospel. 2 Cor. iii. 5. Every thing failed to convince me that God had destined me for the ministry; intimation and qualification were alike unheeded by my unbelieving ignorance of the will and ways of God; and thus I continued, for several years after my sister's death, unmindful of the allurements as well as the precepts of God.

As all other means had failed to move me to proceed upon my appointed duties, the Lord used other means to move me; for when gentle means do not answer, the rod must be applied to bring us into subjection to our Master's will. In 1819, it pleased God to lay me upon a bed of affliction, with a sickness which, to all appearance, was unto death; an internal inflammation wasted my body, in defiance of all the means and remedies which were resorted to; and I grew worse and worse. The medical gentleman who attended me said, he could do no more for me; he was a very pious Christian, and his visits were very precious to me; for we often held much sweet counsel together about the things of God. Real religion is very seldom to be found amongst the medical profession; but thanks be to God, there are some to be met with, occasionally, who can administer comfort to the soul while relieving the ailments of the body; and thus it was with him.

I had many persons come from far and near to visit me, because God was with me; my soul was preserved in great peace and tranquillity; but, on one occasion, when in conversation with my husband about my death, which seemed to be fast approaching, I could not forbear from weeping, from the thought of leaving behind



me, in this evil and stormy life, my poor little girl who was then about seven years of age. It then occurred to my mind, that this natural anxiety which I felt, did not comport with an absolute submission to the will of God; and evinced the inordinate strength and force of those ties by which I was still bound to this earth. I then, in prayer, pledged myself afresh to God, begging that he would effectually wean me from all the excesses of nature's ties; and that my affections and will might be brought into due submission to the will of my heavenly Father. I wrestled in prayer against my insubordinate affections, for about two hours, and the Lord graciously bestowed upon me the victory; and I became so dead to this world, that I felt no anxiety to give any directions as to what should be done for the child after my decease. I was perfectly resigned to the will of God, and willing either to live or die as he thought best; though I could rather have preferred to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. While thus awaiting the divine disposal, my doctor came in one morning, and said, "There is but one thing more that I can try for you, and it is a very severe operation; nor can I say how it will affect you; but if you wish to try it, I will apply it in the name of God;" adding, "that it is our duty to try every means for the restoration of health, leaving the event to God." I therefore consented to submit to the operation, which was, to have my side burnt with caustic, and have an issue inserted therein. I complied, and the thing was done; but it well nigh proved the breaking asunder of the slender thread of life. A kind Quaker lady, who much visited and attended to me during my illness, being

unable to witness the operation, was absent from me on that day: when she came on the morrow, I had scarcely power left me sufficiently to recognise her; and my exhaustion was so extreme, that I could not even raise my hand. I was many weeks ere I recovered from this painful operation, and my debility was long protracted; but at times the presence of the Holy Spirit was so powerful within me, that I seemed quite invigorated and strong; and in this illness, I received another striking communication in reference to my future employment in the ministry; it occurred after the renewed dedication of my soul to God as above related. About twelve o'clock one night, when all was hushed to silence, a human figure in appearance, came and stood by my bed-side, and addressed these words to me, "Be of good cheer, for thou shalt yet see another camp-meeting; and at that meeting thou shalt know the will of God concerning thee." I then put forth my hand to touch it, and discovered that it was not really a human being, but a supernatural appearance. I was not in the least alarmed, for the room was filled with the glory of God, who had permitted the veil to be removed from my mortal vision, that I might have a glimpse of one of our heavenly attendants,—of one who had a message to deliver to me from God. There are many sceptical persons who conceitedly, rashly, and idly scoff at the idea of apparitions and angelic appearances; but they ignorantly do it in the face of the most extensive experience, instinct, belief, and credible testimony of persons of every nation, and of all ages, as well as the inspired statements of the Scriptures. The universal belief of mankind in the separate existence of the soul after

death, is sustained, not by fanciful speculations, but by matters of fact; from facts of this class, this belief derives more substantial support and confirmation than from all the cold deductions of metaphysical ratiocination. Ocular proof is its own demonstration, and commands a far more extensive currency than logical influence. Seldom do the juries of our criminal courts establish their verdicts on evidence equally abundant and express, with that which is furnished by every locality to facts of this description; and the number of such facts in the possession of the present generation of mankind, or even of each hamlet or parish in the world, is astonishingly greater than ever meets the ear of the public, or enters into the conceptions of the headstrong, heroic, and unreasoning sceptic. From that moment I was assured of my ultimate recovery; nor could any human assurances or arguments have persuaded me to the contrary. Soon after this, one of our ministers having heard of my illness, and of the happy frame of my mind, travelled a distance of several miles to see me; he informed me, that he longed to be in such a situation as mine—so near to the gate of heaven. I replied, “Brother, it seemeth to me that I shall yet see another camp-meeting.” He then addressed me in a manner that implied, that in his judgment it was quite impossible, and out of the question. But from the very hour in which the kind celestial messenger delivered to me that comforting and assuring announcement, I began to amend; though my recovery was very gradual, and it was a long time ere I was able to sit up. Thanks be unto the Lord, my sickness was not unto death, but for the glory of God. So sturdy

had been my unbelief, that my merciful and indulgent God was thereby induced to adopt more severe and extraordinary means to bring me into subjection to his holy will. My spirit and temper were now subdued, and resigned to do the will of God, which I was desirous to ascertain, but my hour was not yet come; I therefore waited patiently until the time when it was to be revealed to me, often, in the mean time, saying, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? whatever seemeth good unto Thee, give me the ability, and I will do it."

Eight months had passed away since I had been permitted to attend in the sanctuary of God; but the happy day arrived at last, when I was sufficiently recovered to repair thither again. My kind friends came to assist me to go to the chapel, by supporting me on each side; and I arrived there very comfortably. A minister occupied the pulpit on that occasion, who was unknown to me, and preached on the nocturnal visit of Nicodemus to Jesus. He spoke with much power, and the glory of God filled the house; the people shouted for joy, and the whole place seemed in motion. Glory for ever! Glory be to God! for his presence was manifested on earth. After an interval of fifteen months from the time when I received the angelic announcement, I heard it published in the meeting, that there was to be a camp-meeting in five weeks from that time. At the moment when I heard the notice proclaimed, I felt a sensation as if I had received a blow on the head, or had sustained an electric shock. So singular a feeling surprised me, and gave rise to much thought; but I could not account for, or explain its cause.



The spot where the camp-meeting was announced to be held, was at a great distance from my home; and as my long indisposition had borne heavily on my earthly resources and entirely exhausted them, I knew not how I should be furnished with sufficient means to undertake such a journey. My poor husband was extremely hostile to religion, and had an extravagant prejudice against camp-meetings; the bare mention of them usually irritated him, excited him to treat me with much bitterness, and urged him to denounce them as pregnant with all manner of evil. However, on my return home, I informed him of the projected camp-meeting, and of my desire to be present at it; and contrary to my expectations, he spoke not a word in reply. I was surprised at this, but I regarded it as springing from the restraining power of that God, who, on one occasion, would not permit even a dog to move his tongue against the children of Israel as they passed by.

I had been ill nearly two years, and was even then unable to help myself; nor had I any apparel suitable for me to go into the grove with; and much clothing was requisite for such an occasion. I knew not therefore what to do; it would have been useless to have applied to my husband for assistance for such a purpose: go without more apparel I could not; I was therefore quite at a stand to know how to proceed. But God took the cause in hand, and made the way plain and pleasant; for my dear old master Mitchel, under whom I had been brought up, had heard a year back that Zilpha was very sick; and though he had received no subsequent intelligence as to whether she lived or died, yet he thought if she was living, she must by this time

be in need of some pecuniary assistance ; he had been inclined, therefore, to send her a supply of money, but knew not how to effect it from want of opportunity. However, in the month of August, the society of Friends hold their quarterly meetings in Burlington, New Jersey ; and they are in the practice of taking long journeys to attend these meetings ; so he encouraged his son and daughter to come over to the meeting at Burlington ; desiring them when there, to search after and if possible find out the residence of Zilpha, present his kind love to her, and hand her a donation which he committed to their care. When the quarterly meeting of the Friends came on in our city, to my great astonishment who should come to see me, but William and Achsah Mitchel, the former companions of my youthful days, with whom I had been reared ; and as we not seen each other for several years, it was indeed a happy meeting ; and they came to me with presents, as did the wise men who came to the infant Jesus and his mother, and presented them with frankincense and myrrh ; to God be all the praise ! Then I might have said with Job's friend, " The Almighty has been my defence ; and now I have plenty of silver." Being thus supplied, I was enabled to make preparations for going into the mount of God, to hear his holy word ; and during all my preparations, my husband, contrary to his usual manner, preserved a perfect silence. Thus all went on easily and calmly, it being the Lord's doing, and it was marvellous in my eyes.

As the time drew near, we ascertained that a considerable number of coloured people were about going thither from our parts ; and the members of our class arranged for all of them to sojourn together in one tent.

But we were as yet unprovided with one, nor did we know where or how to procure it. My heavenly Father then put it into my heart to go to a friend of mine, and ask for the loan of his tent, and I obtained it at my request without the least hesitation; and thus all things were provided in readiness for the projected journey.

I have been particular in narrating these circumstances, to show the ever-mindful care of God for us; and how he disposes our matters even when we are unable to discern any possible way, or to provide for the exigencies which clog up and embarrass our paths. How remarkable was it that my dear father Mitchel, who had brought me up from my childhood, should, after an absence of ten years, be stirred up in his mind to send me such a timely relief; and the more especially as it was the first favour of the kind that I received from him. Oh! let all the powers within me unite in fervent adoration of the God I love.

At length the auspicious morning arrived for us to proceed on our journey to the holy mount of God; the carriage soon drove up to my door, and I bade farewell to my dear husband. We started off, and it being a delightful day, we had a very pleasant journey, and arrived on the camp ground in the afternoon of the same day. I was very cordially received by the dear friends, and the dear brethren in the ministry joyfully hailed my appearance on the camp ground; and I was promptly handed to a seat to take refreshments after my journey. There were thousands already assembled; but the best of all was, God was there; and much good was accomplished in the name of Jesus. Friday and Saturday were two heavenly days indeed; the



mighty power of God was greatly displayed, and His ministers were like a flame of fire; so animated with godly zeal. I never saw so much godly effort and evangelic exertion displayed in all my life as on that occasion. On the Lord's-day morning, the presiding Elder stepped forth in the might of the Holy Spirit, like Joshua, when he went to meet the angelic captain of the Lord's hosts, and said, "Let this day be entirely spent in holiness to the Lord; let no table be spread; but let us abstain as much as possible from food, and see what the Lord will do for us this day; for this is the great day of battle against the old dragon and the powers of darkness." Oh! what a memorable day was this. The public prayer-meeting commenced at seven o'clock in the morning; and at half-past eight o'clock, dear Mr. Potts preached a powerful sermon, under which many souls were awakened to a concern for their eternal interests. At ten, the trumpet sounded again for preaching, and the presiding Elder preached from 2 Cor. v. 20. "Now then we are ambassador for Christ; as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." When he came to the application of his discourse, there seemed not to be one person on the spot, whose eyes were not suffused with tears; both high and low, rich and poor, white and coloured, were all melted like wax before the fire. In every part of that vast concourse, the number of which was estimated at seven thousands, there were heaving bursts of penitential emotion, with streaming eyes; and the mighty action of the Holy Spirit, and the quickening energy of God was so obvious and exhilarating, that all the sons of God shouted



for joy. At the conclusion of this lively and interesting meeting, the people returned to their tents to pray with, and direct and comfort those who were in the distresses of godly sorrow. A number of persons were collected in our tent, who were in great distress, earnestly imploring the mercy of God. We engaged in fervent prayer with and for them ; and a great noise being made from the mingling of so many voices, and of such various tones of sorrow and rejoicing, of despair and exultation, of prayer and praise, hundreds were attracted to the place, and came round to witness the scene, and ascertain what was going forward. One of the brethren manifested some uneasiness and dissatisfaction at the eagerness with which the people came rushing into our tent ; and I said to him, " Oh, never mind, my brother ; let them come in and see the wonderful works of God ; " and I was in the act of pressing through the crowd to open the back part of the tent, which I was just about to do, when I felt, as it were a hand, touch me on the right shoulder ; and a voice said to me, " Go outside of the tent while I speak with thee." I turned myself round to see from whom the voice proceeded ; but there were none near me but those of our own company ; and not any of them were addressing me. I immediately went outside and stood at the door of the tent ; and in an instant I began as it were involuntarily, or from an internal prompting, with a loud voice to exhort the people who yet were remaining near the preacher's stand ; and in the presence of a more numerous assemblage of ministers than I had ever seen together before ; as if God had called forth witnesses from heaven, and witnesses on earth, ministers and members, to witness

on this day to my commission, and the qualifications He bestowed on me to preach his holy Gospel. How appropriate to me was the text which had been preached from just before, "Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ." Our dear ministers stood gazing and listening with wonder and astonishment; and the tears flowed abundantly down their cheeks while they witnessed the wonderful works of God. After I had finished my exhortation, I sat down and closed my eyes; and there appeared a light shining round about me as well as within me, above the brightness of the sun; and out of that light, the same identical voice which had spoken to me on the bed of sickness many months before, spake again to me on the camp ground, and said, "Now thou knowest the will of God concerning thee; thou must preach the gospel; and thou must travel far and wide." This is my commission for the work of the ministry, which I received, not from mortal man, but from the voice of an invisible and heavenly personage sent from God. Moreover, this did not occur in the night, when the dozing slumbers and imaginative dreams are prevalent, but at mid-day, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock; and my ministry was commenced in the midst of thousands who were both eye and ear witnesses of the fact. Oh, adorable Trinity! dispose me to do thy holy will in all things. This was my experience on the Lord's day on the camp ground; a day wherein the energies of the Holy Spirit were amazingly exerted, and His presence circulated; and on which hundreds drank into, and were filled with the Spirit. It was such a day as I never witnessed either before or since. On the Monday came the solemn parting time,

of bidding farewell to the brethren and sisters, who were about to proceed to their different stations and places of residence, never to meet again until they meet before the throne of Jesus. Many hundreds of them have doubtless, since then, gone to their final rest ; and will sing the praises of their Redeemer in that world of immortality to which we are all hastening ; may we then hail their happiness ; and with them share the bliss of the blood-bought myriads around the glorious throne in heaven. Having taken our farewell of the dear friends on the camp ground, we started for Burlington ; and happily and safely returned home more spiritual and heavenly minded, and stronger in the Lord, than when we came. On my arrival at home, I found all well, and things peaceful and quiet ; and for a short time, I went on my way rejoicing.

But Satan, my unwearied adversary, did not suffer me long to remain exempted from conflict and trouble. Soon after my return, I laid my case in reference to my call to the work of the ministry before the ministers ; and they greatly encouraged me to proceed, and to preach wherever and whenever opportunities offered. They saw no impropriety in it, and therefore advised me to go on and do all the good I could. I first broached the subject to Mr. John Potts, the beloved brother who preached at the camp-meeting on the morning of the day on which the heavenly commission was delivered unto me : and I obtained the approbation and sanction of all the ministers and of the society. But some of the members of our class soon began to betray a little jealousy, lest I should rise into too great estimation ; for a prophet is not without honour, save in his own country ;



and they began to discover many faults and imperfections in me; for three years previously there had not been a single jarring string amongst us; and nothing could be done without my opinion being first given: in every thing I suited them exactly, and we were a very loving and happy band: but after I commenced the work of the ministry, I was a person of no account, and ever had been; and I became so unpopular, that all our coloured class abandoned me excepting three. Like Joseph, I was hated for my dreams; and like Paul, none stood with me. This treatment, however painful, by no means damped my ardour in the work to which I had been called. I still continued in my Master's work, and great crowds assembled every Lord's day to hear me: the Lord was with me and strengthened me in my feeble labours; the number of white brethren and sisters who flocked to my ministry increased daily; the work prospered amazingly; and thus I had gone on for two months before my husband knew any thing about it; for he never went to a place of worship. At last the tidings came to his ears, and were tauntingly disclosed by one who said to him, "Josh, your wife is a preacher:" this important announcement he met with a direct negative; but when he returned home, he asked me if it was true; and I informed him that it was. "Well," said he, "I'll come and hear you, if I come barefoot:" at these words my heart leaped for joy; and I indulged in sanguine hopes that he might thereby be converted to God. He came according to his word; and I think that conviction of the sinfulness of his state strongly fastened on his conscience, for he became much troubled in mind: he was also apprehensive that I should become



a laughing-stock for the people ; and this also grieved him considerably : sometimes he said to me, " Now child, we are undone : " it appeared to him so strange and singular a thing, that I should become a public speaker ; and he advised me to decline the work altogether, and proceed no further. I was very sorry to see him so much grieved about it ; but my heavenly Father had informed me that he had a great work for me to do ; I could not therefore descend down to the counsel of flesh and blood, but adhered faithfully to my commission ; and very soon after, all my friends who had forsaken, me, returned to me again, for they perceived that God was with me ; and many were added to our numbers, whom I hope to meet in the realms of immortality.

My poor husband's health about this time began visibly to decline ; and his disorder soon settled into an intractable consumption : the amount of care which now devolved upon me was very great ; I was compelled to work very hard to keep my little family and household comfortable in this time of affliction ; and it was frequently with great difficulty that I balanced my income and expenditure ; but thanks be to God, he opened my way before me, comforted, cheered and strengthened me, and conducted me through all my difficulties far beyond my expectations : it is true, I diligently used every means in my power, and my exertions were sanctified and blessed by the Lord. The worst feature of this affliction was, that my dear husband yet remained a stranger to the precious blood of atonement, and to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world. A short time prior to his death,

he indicated a better state of mind than formerly : he even confessed the misconduct with which he had behaved towards me ; requested my forgiveness, and expressed his hope of meeting me in the better world ; he acknowledged that my behaviour had ever been irreproachable ; and hoped that the Lord would ever sustain me : many other things he uttered of much importance ; and his countenance assumed such a calmness and sweetness, that the neighbours who visited him observed the change, and spake of it with great satisfaction. Glory be to God, who doeth all things well ; who is too wise to err, too good to be unkind.

“ Above the rest this note shall swell,  
My Jesus hath done all things well.”

The fatal hour came at last when the brittle thread of life snapped asunder, and his spirit fled to an invisible world. This mournful event took place on the 27th day of January, 1823. It was a day never to be forgotten. Although my poor husband had suffered under so protracted an illness, and I had had so much time to prepare for the solemn hour, I found my strength very inadequate to sustain the awful scene ; my strength, alas, was perfect weakness ; but God was my strong tower and my refuge in the day of distress. Some kind friends came forward, and offered to undertake the interment of the corpse and defray the expences of his funeral ; but as it was the last thing I could do for him, I declined their generous offer, and chose rather to do it myself ; and though it involved me in considerable expense, my creditors waited patiently, until by the Lord's blessing I was enabled pay it all off to the uttermost farthing ; to God be all the praise !

After my dear husband was buried, and I had become a little settled, instead of submitting myself in all things to be led by the Spirit, I rather leaned to my own understanding, and procured a situation of servitude for my little girl, and another for myself, judging these the best means I could adopt for the liquidation of my debts; and I remained in service until my health was so impaired that I was compelled to relinquish it; nor did the blessing of my heavenly Father appear to prosper this course; for I was constantly obliged to be under medical treatment, and yet grew worse and worse. I therefore left my situation, and went back to my house, which I had still reserved in case I should want it. I then opened a school, and the Lord blessed the effort, and increased the number of my pupils, so that I soon had a nice little school; many of the society of friends came and visited it, and assisted me with books and other necessities for it. They were also much pleased with the improvement of the children; and when any strangers came to visit Burlington, they introduced them to me; and it was gratifying to many of them to see a female of colour teaching the coloured children, whom the white people refused to admit into their seminaries, and who had been suffered formerly to run about the streets for want of a teacher. The pride of a white skin is a bauble of great value with many in some parts of the United States, who readily sacrifice their intelligence to their prejudices, and possess more knowledge than wisdom. The Almighty accounts not the black races of man either in the order of nature or spiritual capacity as inferior to the white; for He bestows his Holy Spirit on, and dwells

in them as readily as in persons of whiter complexion: the Ethiopian eunuch was adopted as a son and heir of God; and when Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands unto him, their submission and worship will be graciously accepted. This prejudice was far less prevalent in that part of the country where I resided in my infancy; for when a child, I was not prohibited from any school on account of the colour of my skin. Oh! that men would outgrow their nursery prejudices and learn that "God hath made of one blood all the nations of men that dwell upon all the face of the earth." Acts xvii. 26.

But my mind was not long at rest in this situation; for the remembrance of the commission which I had received from the Lord very strongly impressed me; and as the Lord had said, "Thou must preach the gospel, and thou must travel far and wide," so He was about to bring it to pass, but I knew not in what manner. I was not as yet out of debt; and with an empty exchequer, I felt myself but ill adapted to set out on an excursion for preaching the gospel. I was not as yet sufficiently broken in nor bent enough to the discipline of heaven, entirely to live and walk in the Spirit; but projected many schemes and ways for the Lord to act by; yet He did not stoop down to my wretched conceptions, nor avail Himself of my short-sighted plans: for He hath said, "I am God, and besides me there is no Saviour." "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah lv. 9. I appointed many opportunities in my own mind, on which to venture on a journey into the country to preach the gospel in far distant places, if the Lord would before-



hand furnish me with the necessary supplies for such an undertaking ; but I thought it a sin to undertake such a journey while I remained indebted to any man. And here Satan bound me down for two years ; at the expiration of which, I possessed no more accumulation of funds than before ; and notwithstanding that my school was greatly improved, yet I was hedged up on every side ; as it is written, " Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things written in the book of the law to do them."

I then began to question the reality of my call to the ministry ; and endeavoured to bring it to the test by laying my heart before the Lord, and solemnly praying to the God of my salvation, that if it were His will for me to go out to preach the gospel, He would give me a token thereof by opening my way before me at the end of three months ; and, if otherwise, that He would remove from my mind the weighty impression, which clogged me with care, kept me as a prisoner on parole, and blighted every other prospect in life. I accordingly waited very quietly until the time was nearly expired, watching carefully the signs of the time ; but all was still dark ; and not only so, I was also attacked with a severe fit of sickness, and rendered unable to attend to my school. I then concluded that I had been mistaken, and endeavoured to attribute my past impressions to the zeal of imagination ; for I thought, if it had really been the design of God to send me forth to preach His gospel, He would have disposed my affairs so as to open my way, and suitably replenish my purse for the journey ; but instead of this being the case, my situation became more and more irksome, and hemmed in with difficul-

ties. Oh ! how amazingly difficult is it for the Christian, when decoyed by erratic gleams, or delusive principles, he misses his way, wanders from his proper compass point, and flounders amongst the marshy reeds of worldly principles and proprieties, to detect his error, espy the gospel beacon, and regain his path : thus it was with me ; and in prayer I said to my heavenly master, in reference to my ministry, " Now I know that I am mistaken ; and I am not going out at all,"

I had no sooner uttered these words, than a dreadful and chilling gloom instantaneously fluttered over, and covered my mind ; the Spirit of the Lord fled out of my sight, and left me in total darkness—such darkness as was truly felt ; so awful a sensation I never felt before or since. I had quenched the Spirit, and became like a tormented demon. I knew not what to do, for I had lost my spiritual enjoyments ; my tongue was also silenced, so that I was unable for speak to God : and though my congregation continued to meet every Lord's day, I had no power whatever to preach to them. The members of the class inquired why I did not preach to the people ? " You see," said they, " how the people flock to hear you, and yet you do not preach to them." This went like a dagger to my heart ; for it was evident to all that I had displeased my God, and therefore He had withdrawn His Holy Spirit from me ; nor had I any life or power whatever in prayer. I then laid my case before some of the church ; but none of them could administer any comfort to me. I also consulted some of the Society of Friends, but they could give me no instructions, because my business was not with mortal man, but with the living God. The anguish of my soul

continually increased; every thing went contrary with me, and I fretted and repined, and found fault when there was no occasion, except in myself. I shall never forget the reproof I received from my little daughter on account of the irritability of my temper. She looked at me one day, and said, "Mother, what does ail thee? why, I never saw thee so before; I believe thou art going to be like some of the queer old women." I received this reproof as sent from God, who, I believe, had put it into the mind of the child to utter it; and, from that day, I solemnly pledged myself to the Lord, that if He would again bestow on me the aids of His Holy Spirit, I would go forth in His ministry just as I was, not waiting for any further provision or preparation, but trusting alone in His holy word; and I prayed that He would enable me again to preach to my people in Burlington; and that on such and such day of the month, I would obey His holy commands, whatever might become of me. The Lord accepted of my proposition; and on the next Lord's day, my tongue was set at liberty, and my heart was enlarged; and I was enabled to preach with more fluency and copiousness than ever before. I then informed my audience, that I must leave them, and go out to the vineyard of the Lord; and announced to them on what day I should preach my farewell address to them. It was a Bochim, a day of weeping indeed with them, but they said, "the will of the Lord be done."

I had been under this dark cloud for more than three weeks; and the time appeared to me more than three months; but it now retired, and my captivity vanished. Heaven again opened to my eyes and ears, because I

was at last led to discern the path of obedience, and hearken to the counsel of the Almighty, saying, "This is the way; walk ye in it." The chastisement of God is often more profitable than His indulgence would be; His correction is kindness, and His severity mercy.

My peace again flowed as a river on a calm summer's day; and I began to draw my school to a close. About three weeks prior to the time appointed for the dismissal of my scholars, some friends who resided in the direction my mind was disposed to take, and with whom I had been previously acquainted, came to Burlington; and they, together with some of my dear people thought it advisable for me to accompany them on their return; but I saw no possibility of doing this, because they were about to take their departure before I could arrange my affairs, and receive the accounts due to me at the end of the current quarter. I therefore informed my kind friend that I should not be ready to go with him; but he insisted upon it, and enforced it with many arguments. I replied, "It is utterly impossible for me to be ready to go with you;" at which he seemed somewhat offended; and his wife then said, "Why, Zilpha, if thou feelest that thou art bound to go, and if it is thy wish to go, and if thou canst not get ready at this time, never mind, go as soon as thou canst, and thou wilt get along somehow, and thou wilt hardly understand how; if thou art sent, He that sends thee will take care of thee." This filled my heart with tenderness, and my eyes with tears, and I replied, "Oh, neighbour Hull, this is a word of consolation indeed now I will return home and weep before the Lord, and all will be well." I returned home, and my little daugh-



ter seeing the tears flowing down my cheeks, said to me, "Now, mother, what is the matter?" for she was aware of the great anxiety of mind I had so long been labouring under, and said all she could to comfort me; and added, "If I were you, I should not mind what any person said, but I should go just as I had arranged to go, and do not think any thing about me, for I shall do very well." By this time my scholars had gathered, and the school business commenced; and for the Bible class, the lesson was in the Psalms; one of the little boys commenced the 125th Psalm, which begins thus, "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." While the psalm was being read, it seemed as if I had never seen it before; but the Almighty had sent it as a special message from heaven to me: those words so filled my heart, that all my tears were dried away, and I could only exclaim, "Glory be to God!" My soul rejoiced in God my Saviour, yea, the God of my salvation. No more foreboding fears assailed me; every circumstance readily converged to its proper point, and all things were prepared exactly to the appointed hour. I took my little girl, and placed her under the care of a dear relative of mine, and proceeded on my way to the City of Philadelphia, commenced my Master's business, and strange to relate, when I arrived in that large city, every one appeared to be acquainted with my situation. I preached in a great many chapels, and every congregation voluntarily made a collection for my aid; and every person at whose house I visited, gave me something for my journey. Oh! how astonishing was this to me. I had been for several years striving to provide

myself with necessary supplies for my Master's work, and without success; nor did I ever think of obtaining any money in my travels. It never occurred to me that I should receive a single penny in this work: but when I was willing, I ought to say—made willing to go just as I was, as the apostles of old, without purse or scrip, then the Lord made my way straight before me, and dealt bountifully with me; then was that blessed promise verified, "Seek ye the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all other things shall be added unto you." In the first three weeks I obtained every particle that I wanted, and abundance of silver to proceed on my journey with. Oh! what mercy and what goodness was manifested to such a poor, unbelieving, weak, and unworthy instrument as me. How often have I said, "Lord! send by whom thou wilt send, only send not by me; for thou knowest that I am ignorant: how can I be a mouth for God!—a poor, coloured female: and thou knowest we have many things to endure which others do not." But the answer was, "What is that to thee? follow thou me."

Thus I left my child and ventured on my journey, not knowing whither I should go. From Philadelphia I started for New York; and on my journey passed within three hundred yards of my own home, yet did not call there, but pursued my journey and arrived in New York; and there the Lord rendered my ministry a blessing to many precious souls—glory be to His name. I was absent from home seven months; and when I returned, I was able to meet my creditors and pay my debts, which was an unspeakable indulgence. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord!

I returned home in April, 1828, and remained there a few days. During my stay at home, I was one day exercised with devout contemplations of God, and suddenly the Spirit came upon me, and a voice addressed me, saying, "Be of good cheer, and be faithful: I will yet bring thee to England and thou shalt see London, that great city, and declare my name there." I looked round to ascertain from whence and from whom the voice proceeded, but no person was near me; my surprise was so great that my very blood seemed to stagnate and chill in my veins: it was evidently the Spirit of the Lord whose I am, and whom I serve, who had spoken to me; and my soul responded to His word, saying, "The will of the Lord be done in and by me on earth, as it is by His servants in Heaven." My mind was at this time very much perplexed as to what was the will of God concerning me: I was in doubt as to what I ought to do; but, after a few days, I took my journey again to Philadelphia, with the intention of visiting the southern or slave-holding states of America; here I saw my dear daughter, and remained with my friends during some few weeks; but the confusion of my mind still continued, and whenever I opened a bible, wherever I visited, as well as at my apartments, the book of the prophet Jonah was perpetually presented before me. I mentioned to my friends the uncertainty of my mind as to what the Lord required me to do, the propriety of a voyage to England, and my repeatedly opening in the Bible at the book of Jonah; and they assured me that if it was God's will that I should then visit England, He would make it appear, and smooth the way for me in His own good time. I therefore rested upon this assurance;

and while I yet abode in Philadelphia, I dreamed one night, that I saw two ships cleared out of the docks there, bound for England, and I was not on board either of them. I then concluded that the time for my journey to England had not yet come; and being now satisfied on this matter, I started off for the southern territories of the United States, where slavery is established and enforced by law. When I arrived in the slave states, Satan much worried and distressed my soul with the fear of being arrested and sold for a slave, which their laws would have warranted, on account of my complexion and features. On one occasion, in particular, I had been preaching to a coloured congregation, and had exhorted them impressively to quit themselves as men approved of God, and to maintain and witness a good profession of their faith before the world, &c. I had no sooner sat down, than Satan suggested to me with such force, that the slave-holders would speedily capture me, as filled me with fear and terror. I was then in a small town in one of the slave states; and the news of a coloured female preaching to the slaves had already been spread widely throughout the neighbourhood; the novelty of the thing had produced an immense excitement, and the people were collecting from every quarter, to gaze at the unexampled prodigy of a coloured female preacher. I was sitting in a very conspicuous situation near the door, and I observed, with very painful emotions, the crowd outside, pointing with their fingers at me, and saying, "that's her," "that's her;" for Satan strongly set before me the prospect of an immediate arrest and consignment by sale to some slave owner. Being very much alarmed, I removed from my seat to a retired part



of the room, where, becoming more collected, I inquired within myself, "from whence cometh all this fear?" My faith then rallied and my confidence in the Lord returned, and I said, "get thee behind me Satan, for my Jesus hath made me free." My fears instantly forsook me, and I vacated my retired corner, and came forth before all the people again; and the presence and power of the Lord became greatly manifested in the assembly during the remainder of the service. At the earnest request of the friends, I consented to preach there again on the following Lord's-day morning, which I accordingly did. Some of the white brethren in connexion with the Methodist Society were present on that occasion; at the conclusion thereof, they introduced themselves to me, and wished me to preach for them in the afternoon; to which I agreed; and they obtained permission of the authorities to open and use the courthouse; and therein I obtained a very large auditory; and God gave forth proofs that my ministry was from Him, in giving me many seals to it on that day; thus was I relieved from my fearful forebodings, and pursued my course with increased energy, rejoicing in the prosperity and success with which the Almighty crowned my efforts.

After this, I visited Baltimore in the State of Maryland, and attended a conference of the coloured brethren, by whom I was very kindly received; a large field of labour was provided, and a great and effectual door of utterance opened to me by the Lord. After labouring there for some weeks, I proceeded to the City of Washington, the capital of the United States, and the seat of government: here also I laboured with much success; many souls obtaining the knowledge of

salvation by the remission of their sins, with the gift of the Holy Spirit, through the instrumentality of so feeble an earthen vessel. I continued my travels southward into the State of Virginia, and arrived at the City of Alexandria, where the Lord rendered my labours effectual to the conversion of many from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. I abode there two months, and was an humble agent, in the Lord's hand, of arousing many of His heritage to a great revival; and the weakness and incompetency of the poor coloured female but the more displayed the excellency of the power to be of God. There were some among the great folks whom curiosity induced to attend my ministry; and this formed a topic of lively interest with many of the slave holders, who thought it surpassingly strange that a person (and a female) belonging to the same family stock with their poor debased, uneducated, coloured slaves, should come into their territories and teach the enlightened proprietors the knowledge of God; and more strange still was it to some others, when in the spirit and power of Christ, that female drew the portraits of their characters, made manifest the secrets of their hearts, and told them all things that ever they did. This was a paradox to them indeed: for they were not deficient of pastors and reverend divines, who possessed all the advantages of talents, learning, respectability and worldly influence, to aid their religious efforts; and yet the power of truth and of God was never so manifest in any of their agencies, as with the dark coloured female stranger, who had come from afar to minister amongst them. But God hath chosen the weak things of the world to

confound the mighty. Divine goodness raised me and honoured me as an angel of God ; yet my bodily presence continued weak ; the passions, frailties and imperfections of humanity abounded in my own consciousness ; the union of such meanness and honour rendered me a riddle to myself. I became such a prodigy to this people, that I was watched wherever I went ; and if I went out to tea with any of the friends, the people would flock around the house where I was ; and as soon as they judged that the repast was finished, they came in and filled the house, and required me to minister to them the word of life, whether I had previously intended to preach or not. The people became increasingly earnest in their inquiries after truth ; and great was the number of those who were translated out of the empire of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

At this place, resided a gentleman named Abijah Janney, belonging to the society of friends, at whose house I spent many delightful hours. One day he requested to speak with me alone ; and having accompanied him to another apartment, when we were seated, he said to me, " Now Zilpha, I perceive that thy visit to this place will be attended with much good, if thy deportment amongst the whites and especially amongst the slaves, be prudently conducted ; for there seemeth in reference to the great topics of thy ministry to be much interest felt by the people generally." This was a well-timed and salutary caution, and most prudent advice to me, situated as I was in connexion with two distinct communities, so opposite in condition, so contrasted in intelligence, and so antipodal in their feelings and prejudices. These words at such a time were to me as apples of gold in pictures of silver.

During my continuance in this city, I had a very severe attack of the fever which is endemial in that climate ; but I was attended by a physician of first rate eminence, and by several most kind and anxious nurses ; and the Lord was pleased speedily to raise me up again ; most kind and affectionate were this people to me : before I was able to sit up an hour, Mr. Janney sent his carriage morning and evening to take me out, that I might be benefited by the refreshing breezes, and be regaled by the sweet zephyrs which gently fan over the verdant plains of that genial clime. It was the Lord's doing ; and to him be all the praise.

On my recovery, I again resumed my Divine Master's work ; and going to my physician to discharge his demands for his skilful care and kind attendance upon me during my illness, he refused to receive any remuneration, assuring me, the reflection that he had been instrumental, through the blessing of God, of contributing towards my recovery, afforded him much pleasure ; that it was his desire his past services to me should be free of cost ; and expressed his hope that I might long be spared to do the will and work of the Lord

Although I had been sick and laid aside for a time, I lost nothing, except the dross of earthly affections : it was merely a furnace, in which my heavenly father saw the necessity of my being placed for a time : and I believe that I was thereby weaned still more from the world, separated to my God and purified in holiness. The methodist preacher at that station, Mr. J. Gess, behaved to me with very great kindness ; he much promoted my labours in that neighbourhood, and I proceeded throughout the vicinity of Alexandria, preach-



ing the gospel with the happiest results. On one occasion, I took an excursion with some ladies, a few miles into the country, to preach at a distant farmhouse occupied by a Mr. Marifield; and as is usual with the farmers there to keep very savage dogs for the protection of their premises, this gentleman had three of those animals; very fierce and ferocious creatures, which met us at the door; but, as the family were present, without giving us any molestation; yet as the people soon came flocking to the meeting, the inmates were concerned on account of the ferocity of the dogs, and tried to fasten them up, but could not succeed; but God restrained the savage beasts and they were very quiet, though the assemblage was so large, that we were compelled to resort to the orchard, and hold our meeting beneath the spreading apple trees. When I took my position, the three dogs came and laid down, one on each side, and the other behind me; and there they remained till the conclusion of the service; and as the people shook hands with me and bade me adieu, they rose, wagged their heads, and brushed me as if to welcome my visit there. It was a most interesting and profitable season; and the presence and power of God were greatly manifested: there were several youth in attendance, who were reputed to be very wild and giddy, but they appeared to be struck with awe at the religious fervour manifested, and conducted themselves with reverence and solemnity.

I had also another engagement, arranged by some friends, for me to go into another part of the country, about twelve miles distant, and preach in the grove; but I was prevented by heavy rains from fulfilling it for three

Lord's days successively: at length, the weather becoming more favourable, I was published to preach there on the following Lord's day: as the time drew near, I was in much perplexity through inability to fix on any passage of Scripture as a text to preach from, or rather, because the Lord had not as yet presented a passage to my mind or fastened one upon my spirit; but as I was speaking to the dear friend at whose house I was then visiting, of the dilemma I was in, the following passage powerfully flashed upon my mind, "Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die and not live." In meditating upon this passage, my soul was barren. I was oppressed by a complete dearth of suitable ideas, and unable to obtain any spiritual opening or discernment of this text; I then foolishly endeavoured to abandon it; and as if I possessed the right of self direction, or liberty to select what messages I pleased, searched the Scriptures for another text; but to no purpose; for every other was sealed up from me, though I continued my search until twelve o'clock on the Saturday night, and resumed it in the morning at the dawning of light; but I learned that when the Lord impresses a text on the minds of His servants, that He will not be tempted by our solicitations to have another one substituted. Having such a distance to go, we started off at nine o'clock in the morning; and I went as reluctantly as a criminal goes to the bar: as we approached within a few miles of the selected spot, we observed the people from every direction over the face of the country repairing thither; which rendered the distress of my mind the more poignant. It is a weighty matter for a well-furnished preacher to address a numerous auditory in the name of the Lord of Hosts; but to

go as I then did, destitute of a topic whereon to preach, was a mental affliction indeed. When we arrived at the place, it was already like a camp-meeting; the platform was erected, hundreds of persons assembled, and all things in readiness. I directly ascended the stand, and read forth a hymn, which was sang by the congregation, offered up prayer, and gave out another hymn. Whilst the congregation were singing, I was anxiously searching for a text to preach from; but no other could I find than that which had been given me. When, therefore, the singing was finished, I arose and read the passage before referred to, which I had no sooner done, than my mind took a comprehensive grasp of the subject; a region of truths were unfolded to my view, such as I had never previously conceived of; and it occupied me an hour and a half to exhaust the fund of sentimental treasure, which the Divine Spirit poured into my mind. It was, indeed, a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

At the conclusion of my discourse, I inquired if there were any ministers present; intimating, that if this was the case, an opportunity was offered them of further addressing the audience; and a minister being present from George Town, who had arranged to preach a funeral sermon at a neighbouring spot, and the relatives of the deceased being all present, it was agreed that he should preach it there from the platform; and it constituted an appropriate sequel to my sermon; we enjoyed quite an heavenly day in the grove, and returned home in the evening in peace.

Among the number of persons who were introduced into the fold of our God, in the city of Alexandria, was

Miss Butts, a young lady who found peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and manifested remarkable piety. In the correspondence with which she subsequently favoured me, she indicated an affectionate desire to see me again in the flesh ; and assured me of the happiness and freedom she enjoyed in the service of the Lord. The work of the Holy Spirit was greatly manifested in this city ; both high and low, rich and poor, white and coloured, all drank out of the living streams which flowed from the City of our God. Every day brought me tidings of souls newly born of God. Even the angels in heaven rejoice over the repenting sinner, and much more should the redeemed on earth ! Oh, the depth both of the riches and knowledge of God ! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out !

Before I took my leave of this city, Lady Hunter, the wife of Major Hunter, came to Alexandria ; being a member of the Methodist Society, she invited me to spend a few days at her house, and preach on the Lord's day. I accepted the invitation, and enjoyed my visit greatly. The Major was not a religious man ; and as the ministers frequently visited his Lady, he was in the habit of attacking them with controversial cavils against their faith. As he displayed but little respect to persons, when he came home from the city, accompanied by several other gentlemen, the Bible was produced, the family summoned to evening prayers, and I was required to officiate as chaplain. As I prayed, read, and commented upon the Scriptures, he mustered his interrogatories, and produced his objections. I had no more desire for a mental collision than



ambition for or prospect of a triumph in a contest for intellectual pre-eminence with such an antagonist; but as He who sent me, helped my infirmities, and was ever ready to succour me, I was enabled to reply to all his questions and quibbles, and maintain the truth. Indeed, he appeared highly gratified that my answers were such as in no way put the cause of religion to the blush before his friends, who had been introduced for the purpose of testing my poor feminine abilities. The Lord directed his servants on such emergencies, to take no thought or premeditation for the framing of their speech; and promised them a suitable inspiration of his Holy Spirit; and he richly assisted me on this occasion; to Him, therefore, be all the renown!

Taking my departure, amidst the regrets of many, from Alexandria, I returned to Washington: my visits were very numerous there among the people; and my company was desired by many of the great folks, even by the friends and associates of the President of the United States. Some religious gentlemen, friendly to the cause of missions, proposed for me to go out to Africa, and labour among the native tribes; but I declined their proposal; telling them, my heavenly Father had given me no such direction; and I dared not go thither unless sent by his Divine Majesty; but if God had required me to go thither, I should not have ventured on a refusal: they therefore urged this matter no further. I was continually visited by ladies from all parts of the city and its vicinity; many of them informed me they had heard their friends relate, with most lively interest, the astonishing wonders of divine grace and power, which had attended our meetings in

the groves ; and what seasons of refreshing and spiritual edification they had experienced at those meetings. When on a visit at the residence of General Van Esse, I was invited by Lady Lee, the wife of General Lee, to a visit at her residence ; and to preach at a chapel the ladies had erected at Green-leaf point, for the use of the missionaries who came thither. On the day appointed, her carriage came for me, and I went accordingly : after tea, a great number of her friends met there, who were going to the meeting ; and among them was Commodore Rogers and his Lady, with many others who came from a distance. When the time came, Mrs. Lee and myself went on first ; and she took the opportunity to caution me against the supposition that the bulk of those ladies and gentlemen were religious persons ; assuring me they were merely coming from motives of curiosity to hear what I might say, and witness my performance. If I had gone confiding in my own poor abilities, this information would, doubtless, have utterly disconcerted me ; but I depended on the faithful promise of my Master, that he will be with me even unto the end ; nor was I disappointed. A large congregation assembled, composed of persons of all grades of society. I commenced the service by reading a portion of the Scriptures ; when I gave forth my hymn, the ladies assisted to sing it, and the service was thus far sustained with propriety. I based my discourse on the Gospel of St. John v. 25. The Lord was pleased to give efficacy to the word of His grace, and to apply it with saving power to the mind of Lady Rogers. I perceived in the course of my sermon, that she was greatly interested and powerfully affected by it : indeed

a mighty religious awe and solemnity rested upon the entire assembly. During the service, and for several days afterwards, the spiritual welfare of Mrs. Rogers was a theme, which, as it were, involuntarily occupied a very prominent interest in my mind; and I felt strongly assured that the Lord would endow her with the rich blessings of his salvation. In a few days after, I proceeded on my travels, and heard nothing further of the results of this meeting.

My next visit was to Baltimore, and from thence I went to Annapolis, where I continued during a great part of the winter. Here, also, the Lord gave forth to the people His gracious attestations that my ministry was from Him; for my speech and my preaching were not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit, and in power: it was mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds; and became the power of God to the salvation of many. On one Lord's-day evening in this place, I was led by the Spirit to discourse very impressively on mortality and death; so much so, that my sermon might have been well suited to a funereal occasion; I was succeeded in the pulpit by a local preacher, a coloured brother and a slave; this poor brother seemed to manifest an undue anxiety for his freedom. Certainly, freedom is preferable to bondage, as saith the apostle Paul, 1 Cor. vii 21; who bade the Christian brethren in bondage to be unconcerned about it, unless an opportunity arrived of their attaining freedom; in which case, they were to avail themselves thereof. This poor brother in bonds, however, was very impatient of slavery, and anxiously sighed for liberty. Alas! his life and spirit, his body,

his bones, and his blood, as respects this life, were legally the property of, and at the disposal of his fellow man. But his sighs were heard in heaven by Him who looseth the prisoners, and the time of his release arrived. In that same week he was taken ill, and finally fell asleep in Jesus, departing to be "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest. There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor; the small and great are there, and the servant is free from his master." Job iii. 17—19. His interment was a remarkably afflictive occasion: his corpse was brought into the chapel during the time of service, and the wailings of the congregation grew so intense, that the officiating minister was unable to proceed with the service. The suddenness of the stroke was surprising; and the loss of their beloved minister appeared to his sorrowful flock more like a dream than a fact. Oh, the abominations of slavery! though Philemon be the proprietor, and Onesimus the slave, yet every case of slavery, however lenient its inflictions, and mitigated its atrocities, indicates an oppressor, the oppressed, and the oppression. Slavery in every case, save those of parental government, criminal punishment, or the self-protecting detentions of justifiable war, if such can happen, involves a wrong, the deepest in wickedness of any included within the range of the second table.

In the Slave States of America the law sanctions the arrest of any person of colour, within their territories; and unless such person can produce the most unexceptionable papers in proof of his freedom, the legal officers may sell him on behalf of the State, into perpetual captivity. Blessed for ever be the Lord, who



sent me out to preach his gospel even in these regions of wickedness, He preserved me in my going out and my coming in; so that the production of the documents of my freedom was not once demanded during my sojourn on the soil of slavery. While staying at Annapolis, I was engaged to preach at a place some miles distant in the country, and while proceeding thither in a one horse chaise, we were obliged to cross a river, and were about to get into the ferry-boat, together with our horse and chaise, when the horse fell down and put us in danger of drowning; but by the dexterity of the men who assisted us, and the blessing of God, we safely landed on the other side, still further in the interior of the Slave States. On another occasion, I went from Annapolis to preach on the Lord's day at another station in the country. Many hundreds were collected together, to whom I preached from these words, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." An elderly gentleman sat in a very conspicuous seat just before me, greatly agitated; the restraint of his emotions was evidently a matter of great difficulty, for his soul had deeply adopted the prayer of the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner." When I retired from the pulpit the people rushed eagerly forward to salute me; they appeared to be quite overpowered by their penitential feelings, and in an agony of self-abasement. The multitude of repenting sinners on that occasion doubtless exhilarated many an angel-mind, and caused heaven itself to thrill with joy. That my mission was from God was manifest to them by His communication of the Holy Spirit, through my ministry, to those who received my testimony; the power of the

Lord was present, indeed, to pull down some of the strongholds of Satan, and to set up Christ in the hearts of the people. On my return to Annapolis, I was thrown out of my chaise, and so much injured that I was unable to preach in the evening, in the city. I was very ill in consequence for some time, but the Lord raised me up again and restored me to health. On my recovery I resumed my work ; and being on a visit at the house of one of our ministers, I heard tidings of Lady Rogers of Washington, through the medium of a minister who had recently been there. Being on a visit to Commodore Rogers, the latter inquired if he knew anything of the preaching woman, adding, that he hoped God would bless every lane of her life ; for that his wife was become a very pious woman through attending a meeting held by her, at Green Leaf's point ; and further, if she would come and reside in that neighbourhood, he would make a suitable provision for her subsistence. A gentleman residing in the city of Annapolis, offered to give me a house and a plot of ground on condition of my residing there ; but it was not meet for me to depart from my Master's work, from considerations of worldly interest. I dared not, like Demas, forsake my itinerating ministry, to love this present world : nor was filthy lucre the object I had in view in the service of the gospel. The cheerful liberality of grateful affection is one of the evidences of sincere discipleship to Jesus ; but the love of mammon has no place in the hearts of his true ministers, who love the flock rather than the fleece.

Before I left Annapolis a gentleman, named Watson, residing in the city, one of the local preachers, ear-

nestly desired me to accompany him to Mount Tabor, about ten miles distant, and preach for him in his appointment ; I had no desire for this journey on account of my remaining weakness, and the severity of the season, it being winter : but as he would take no denial, coming repeatedly to solicit my compliance, I reluctantly consented, and a dreary journey we had ; the cold being intensely rigorous, the roads bad, and traveling dangerous. On our arrival I found that the people had not been apprised of my coming, but Mr. Watson ascended the pulpit and introduced me to the audience ; he then retired and I occupied his place, very much to the astonishment of the people. A young man was present who behaved very indecorously, and as the people came in he pointed with his finger to me, tittering and laughing. Poor young man ; before that meeting was terminated, his laughter was turned to weeping. This place was on that day a Mount Tabor indeed, not celebrated by the visit of Moses, but blest with the presence of Christ. After the service the brethren requested me to preach for them again on the 25th day of December, commonly called Christmas day ; but Mr. Watson thought it best to decline another journey in so inclement a season ; it was therefore arranged that I should abide at the house of M. Beard, one of the trustees of the chapel, till after the 25th instant ; and I accordingly returned with him and his family to their house to dinner. At this place I was still further in the interior of the Slave States, and now left without an earthly protector. During the dinner time, the young man above referred to formed the topic of conversation. It appears that he was a slave-driver, accounted the most

profligate drunkard in that vicinity, and habituated to every vice; and it was remarked that he had never been previously known to evince so much serious attention to a sermon as he had paid to my discourse, in the morning: and that his kneeling during the concluding prayer was a matter of surprise to them; however, my mind was greatly moved with evangelic interest for this young man: and, like Paul, for the Galatians, I travailed in birth for him.

On the appointed morning of the 25th instant, I said to one of Mr. Beard's sons, who was a member of the society, "Now, brother, let us go to meeting, having our swords sharpened, and who knows but God will give us this young man?" "Oh!" he replied, "he is far enough off from here by this time, and has swallowed many bowls of drink ere now." On hearing this, I gave up all expectation of seeing him; but when we entered the chapel, to my great surprise he was there, clothed, and in his right mind. I preached that morning from Luke ii. 10; and, under the sermon, every heart was melted, nor was one person to be found in the entire assembly, whose eyes were not suffused with tears. The gallery of the chapel was occupied by the slaves, and the body of the building with proprietors; and all were alike affected. Mr. Beard requested the congregation to restrain the expression of their feelings; but the powerful operation of the Holy Spirit disdained the limits prescribed by man's reason, and bore down all the guards of human propriety and order. The presence of the Holy Ghost filled the place, and moved the people as the wind moves the forest boughs. Mr. Beard's cautions were unavailing; the coloured people in the gallery wept



aloud, and raised vehement cries to heaven ; the people below were also unable to restrain their emotions ; and all wept beneath the inspirations of the Spirit of grace. I was obliged to stop in my discourse, and give vent to my own feelings, and leave it to God to preach in His own more effectual way. Oh, what a memorable day was this ! Saints and angels poured their little current of holy and benevolent sympathies into the volume of mercy, love, and grace, which streamed from the compassions of the Infinite Eternal into our little earthly sanctuary, to staunch the bleeding heart, remove its guilt, reform its character, and give new impulse to its powers. At the conclusion of the service, several of the gentlemen present collected a sum of money amongst themselves, which they presented to me, with great expressions of gratitude for the faithful and warning discourse I had preached to them in reference to their spiritual interests ; the brethren, also, cordially invited me to come again, offering me the use of the chapel whenever I thought fit to come and occupy it : they wished me God's speed, and we took our farewell of each other, probably to meet no more until the gospel dispensation and its ministry is closed for ever.

I then returned to Annapolis, and received the kind welcome of my dear friends there ; and from thence I proceeded on my journey homeward, through Baltimore and Philadelphia, to Burlington ; and thus closed with me the year 1829, amid scenes of usefulness and godly revivals and conversions to Christ, the memory of which will be cherished with the most lively interest by thousands of persons.

I will mention, in this place, that many months after

my visit to Mount Tabor, I received a letter from the young man whose conversion is above narrated; in which he earnestly desired me to come and visit them again, offering to defray all the expenses of the journey; but the Lord had directed my steps in another direction, and kept my conscience tender and fearful of offending him; so that I durst not step aside from the path of His guidance for any private interest, personal gratification, or earthly gain. Whatever of sorrow or difficulty I met with in the paths of the Lord, I was enabled to sustain, and cheerfully to bear the cross after my loving Lord and Master; but the privilege of self-direction the Lord did not permit so ignorant and incompetent a servant as I was, to exercise. It was one of the crying provocations of ancient Israel, that "they did every man that which seemed right in the sight of his own eyes," and "walked after the imagination of their own hearts." May I ever be preserved to "trust in the Lord with all my heart, and not lean to my own understanding." Lord! ever teach me the way wherein I should go.

"Oh, may thy Spirit guide my feet,  
In ways of righteousness;  
Make every path of duty plain  
And straight before my face:  
Since I 'm a stranger here below,  
Let not my path be hid;  
But mark the road my feet should go,  
And be my constant guide."

When I was a child, I thought as a child; and often wondered how the ancient servants of the Lord knew the will of God in reference to their movements in life; and how they understood when and whither the Lord required them to go; but when I had fully dedicated myself to the service of the Lord, I experienced "the secret of the Lord to be with them that fear him."

When our souls are in a right position before God, the will of the Lord, in reference to our future movements, is always made manifest and plain to us in the Lord's own time. It is only when we are carnal, wayward, neglectful, and disobedient, that our mental vision becomes obscure, and we fail of reading the Lord's indications, or that he ceases to bless us with His guidance. In all the errands on which the Lord has been graciously pleased to send me for the proclamation of His gospel, my work has been attended with the witness of His Spirit, and He hath given seals to my ministry, and souls for my hire.

My mind was at this time directed to the northern States of America; and I accordingly took my daughter with me, and went to New York, where I abode some few weeks, and then went, accompanied by many of the brethren, to Oyster Bay, to attend a camp-meeting held there, which proved a very blessed season to many hundreds of persons; and numbers were, on that occasion, savingly converted to God. On the second time of my appearing in public at that place, I preached from Deut. v. 29, "Oh, that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever;" and under this discourse, it pleased God to capture my own daughter in the gospel net; she cried out aloud, during the service, and exclaimed, "Oh, Lord! have mercy upon me, for I can hold out no longer. Oh, Lord! have mercy upon me." This occurred in the midst of listening hundreds, and it produced a most thrilling sensation upon the congregation; for, said they, "It is her own daugh-

ter!" and their emotions of sympathy were still more excited, when they learnt that she was my only child. Many a mother strongly felt with me on that occasion; and though my position would not allow me to leave the pulpit, to go and pour the oil of consolation into her wounded spirit, yet, thank God, there were abundance of dear friends present who were ready for every good word and work. The conversion of a soul is not to be effected by the mere effort of man; none but God can communicate a full pardon to the guilty soul; but, ere that meeting dissolved, the glorious work was accomplished, and Christ, the chiefest of ten thousand and the altogether lovely, was manifested in her heart, the hope of glory: thus she experienced the knowledge of salvation by the remission of her sins, being called out of darkness into God's marvellous light; the Spirit of adoption was imparted to her; she rejoiced in the Lord with all her soul; and His love was shed abroad in her heart by the Holy Ghost.

We then returned to New York, where I apprenticed her to the dress-making business: and taking my leave of her and the friends there, I departed for Newhaven, in the State of Connecticut, being richly replenished by Him who hath said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee;" and as I went to and fro in the earth, from place to place, embracing a scope of space and effort too vast for minute detail, the Lord blessed my labours wherever I went, to the conversion of sinners and the edification of saints; but I was not wholly exempted from those trials and persecutions, which are the common lot of the servants of Jesus. The principalities and powers of evil spirits, (Ephes. vi. 12) which Chris-



tians have to contend against, which Christ despoiled, (Colos. ii. 15) and which constitute the strength of the empire of darkness, the world of evil spirits, the right hand of the prince of the power of the air, (Ephes. ii. 2) who is the god or deity of this world, (2 Cor. iv. 4); these principalities occasionally obstructed me much; and, by blinding and infatuating the sons of men, inspired them with a hostile zeal against me. This was particularly the case at Hartford; in which city some of the most influential ministers of the Presbyterian body greatly opposed me; and one of them, a Mr. House, resolutely declared that he would have my preaching stopped; but he, like Sanballat, imagined a vain thing; for the work was of God, who made bare his arm for the salvation of men by my ministry. Thanks be unto God who always caused me to triumph in Christ; and made manifest the savour of his knowledge by me in every place.

While the opponents of my ministry were pursuing their plans of opposition, it happened that I was sent for one day to visit a Mr. Freeman, who was dangerously ill; I accordingly went to see him: and while occupied in praying with him, his medical attendant, a physician of the first eminence, and moving in the highest rank in society, came into the chamber; he waited patiently until my supplications were concluded, and I had withdrawn; he then inquired into the condition of his patient, and finding him much better, he exclaimed with surprise, "It is the woman who has made you better." No, dear reader, it was not by my power or holiness that the sick man was benefitted, but the power of God through faith in the name of Jesus; for the Scriptures say, that "the prayer of faith shall

save the sick." On my departure from the house, the doctor inquired who I was, and from whence I came; and expressed his wish to hear me himself, desiring them to inform him when and where I should next preach. It appeared that he had previously heard many reports respecting me, for my ministry had been attended by persons of every rank in life.

The time soon arrived for my appearance again in the pulpit, and many of the great folks were present, and amongst them, the physician; and the Spirit of the Lord was there also, to direct and bless and own his word, or the efforts of a poor weak female would have been feeble and insipid indeed: but on that occasion a very great interest was excited in the minds of the audience, for greater and mightier is He that is in us, than the spirit which directs the world; and the more we live and walk in the Spirit, the more the might of God dwells in us and breathes in our words. The doctor then visited his minister, the Rev. Mr. House, the very gentleman who had declared that he would stop me from preaching in that city, and spoke of me to him in such terms as induced the clergyman to exclaim, "Well, if God has sent her, I bid her God's speed." The work of the Lord spread throughout the city, and amongst people of every denomination; and such a revival took place as filled the city with astonishment; and Mr. House, my former opponent, seeing the wonderful works of God, exhorted his congregation to be sober and stand at their posts, "for," said he, "I perceive that God is about to do a great work in this city, therefore be ye still, and know that it is of God." Being encouraged by the smiles of my heavenly Father,

and animated to increased zeal in his holy cause, I went from house to house and preached Christ and Him crucified to the people ; I even ventured into houses of ill fame, and exhorted the debased inmates to repent of their sins and turn to Jesus Christ : and many of these unfortunate females became the genuine disciples of Jesus. I also penetrated into the alleys and courts, and the different outskirts of the town, where vice and immorality abounded ; and it pleased God to effect a mighty change in the morals and habits of the people, especially in the south quarter of the town. I met with many persons here, who called themselves Universalists ; but they might more properly be named Deistical Sceptics ; they pretended to believe that the whole human family would eventually be saved, irrespectively of their principles and conduct. Many of these gentlemen came to hear me preach, at the house of a friend, in the skirts of the city, to which I had been invited, but very little to their satisfaction ; they much approved of my prayers, because my intercessions included all the human family : but they were unable to reconcile them with my preaching, in which I insisted on salvation by the remission of sins, through genuine faith in the crucified Redeemer ; describing the lost condition of mankind, and exhorted men to flee from the wrath to come. Blessed be the Lord, there were several of these very persons who believed and turned to Him with all their heart ; and among them was Mrs. Spring, a lady connected with the third Presbyterian chapel in the city, who attended at that meeting with three of her daughters ; they were attired in mourning for another daughter, who had recently died :

and, as I was expatiating, on the attendance of kind angels on the death bed scenes of the saints, I observed these ladies weeping with great emotion. In a few weeks afterwards, I was again invited to spend a few days at the same house; and I was then informed that this lady and her three daughters had, from that evening, evinced a saving conversion to God, having been under that sermon convinced of sin, of righteousness and of judgment to come. Mrs. Spring stated that she felt more under that discourse, in reference to the death of her daughter, than she did at the time of her decease: and from that time they had no rest until they obtained the assurance of peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ: they were soon after introduced to me, and I received much kindness from them.

I met with a young woman in the course of my ministry in Hartford, who was very unsteady and depraved in her habits; her mother was a member of the Methodist Society, and at that time ill; she wished me to be sent for to visit her, but the daughter insisted that I should not come there; or, if I did, she threatened to swear and dance in my presence during my visit, and to treat me with all possible disrespect. However, this young woman was by some means or other induced to come and hear me preach; and the Lord was pleased to open her heart, that she attended unto the things that were spoken; at the conclusion of the service, she came to me and invited me to come and visit her mother; and the next morning she called upon me again. I exhorted her, prayed with and for her, and she became so attached to me, that my company was continually sought by her: she was soon after admitted into the



household of faith, and I afterwards preached in their cottage : thus one of my enemies became my child in the gospel, and my sister in the Lord.

Intending to take my departure from this city, I went to the coach office, and paid my fare, was booked as a passenger for the next day, leaving directions for the coach to call for me on the following morning ; but so eager were the people for my further stay amongst them, that some of the brethren went and took up my fare at the coach office, and would not listen to any proposition for my departure. I therefore resumed my labours amongst them, being constantly engaged by day and night in the work of the Lord, without an intervening cloud, for the space of three months, preaching in the chapel on the Lord's-day, and on one evening in the week.

On one occasion, a number of persons, amounting to between twenty and thirty, presented themselves in the chapel, in great distress, and deep penitence on account of their sins. The excess of their emotions were such, that the order of worship was suspended ; for some were calling upon the name of the Lord, some were groaning to receive the atonement of Jesus, while others were rejoicing in his salvation and giving glory to God. Our services were not unfrequently interrupted by scenes of this description ; for the operation of the Holy Ghost can no more be circumscribed within the limits of man's arrangement, than the wind and rain and sunshine can be restricted to man's times and opportunities. Order in divine worship and in the house of God is graceful and appropriate ; but the life and power of religion is not identified with, nor in proportion to, the polish of the minister, the respectability of

the congregation, or the regularity and method of its services : the most abrupt and extraordinary vicissitudes of weather are frequently productive of more benefit than the nicest graduated scale of temperature ; and had it not been for some of these instances, in which the Almighty displayed the wonders of his victorious grace, even though the accustomed proprieties and regularity of divine service were at the time abruptly trenched upon and suspended, there are many churches now lively and flourishing, which, notwithstanding the exactness of the order of their worship, and the beauty of their arrangements, would now be but little more than so many religious automata. Our duty is humbly to submit to, rather than attempt to limit, the Holy One of Israel ; and when God is at work, though the ark may seem to rock with irregular motion, let not men pretend to more wisdom than their Creator, lest, like Uzzah, they fall themselves in their attempts to direct His energies, and regulate His movements.

My mental hemisphere soon after this became obscured and cloudy, and my mind became exceedingly heavy and sorrowful ; satanic spirits also gained access to my soul and harrassed me much, and I seemed oppressed with fearful forebodings of some impending evil ; I knew not any cause in myself for this reverse of my spiritual condition, and was wholly unable to account for, and comprehend the reason thereof. The following words constantly ran through my mind during this affliction :

“ Lord, what are all my sufferings here,  
If thou but make me meet,  
With that enraptured host to appear  
‘ And worship at thy feet.’ ”

I waded through much gloominess and sorrow ; the dial of my spirit was beclouded with great darkness, and I wept much and frequently ; but the cause was beyond my comprehension.

The chapel in which I had been preaching was called an union chapel, and was not the property of any particular sect of Christians ; but the majority of the persons worshipping therein were Presbyterians ; and by them, at length, a great jealousy against me was excited, fostered and hatched under the influence of the rulers of the darkness of this world, professedly on account of my being a Methodist. The chapel was to some extent involved in debt ; and this Presbyterian faction came forward before the managers with a proposition to procure a minister to supply the pulpit for three months free of expense ; requesting, at the same time, that I might not be informed of their proposal : the volunteer preacher was accordingly introduced and tendered his services to supply the pulpit every Lord's-day ; and as the chapel was in debt, the proposition was accepted, and the matter arranged and settled. Upon this, one of our friends came and informed me, that it had been arranged by the managers, that Mr. A. should preach on next Lord's-day, in the morning, myself in the afternoon, and Mr. B. in the evening : this somewhat enlightened my understanding into this mystery of iniquity. I attended the morning service on the next Lord's-day, and heard Mr. A. preach ; and in the afternoon, as I was proceeding to the chapel, one of the managers met me and informed me he had learnt that Mr. C. was appointed to preach there on that afternoon, and advised me not to enter the pulpit : thus instructed, I took my

seat with the congregation : soon afterwards the deacons entered the chapel, and seeing me sitting in a private seat, they came and desired me to ascend the pulpit according to the recent arrangements : I then related to them what the manager had said to me ; they assured me his statement was untrue, and urged me to take the pulpit ; having been informed of all the circumstances, when I appeared in the pulpit I was obliged to vent my feelings in a shower of tears, before I could utter a word ; and my dear flock were very much affected at the sight ; but we afterwards enjoyed a very blessed meeting. In the evening, I went again and heard the Rev. Mr. B. ; there were many of the officials present ; and on the conclusion of the service the congregation still kept their seats, none offered to leave, but maintained a profound silence, and the eyes of many of them were fixed in expectation upon me ; I felt called forth by the assembly, and rising to my feet, I said, If there are any present who feel anxious about their souls, and will come forward, we will hold a prayer-meeting. A great number then came forward ; and when they were seated, the preacher descended from the pulpit, and with the official gentlemen present, without deigning the least notice of me, went and conferred with the persons who were seeking the salvation of their souls, and instructed them in the way of life ; after which, they announced that their minister would preach again on Wednesday evening, and closed the meeting, without giving me an opportunity of saying a word : this conduct seemed much like gospel rivalry, a thing which unhappily too greatly prevails amongst Christians : the apostle Paul intimated that



some in his day preached Christ of contention, for the purpose of increasing his affliction ; and I cannot but think that this treatment was intended for my affliction ; it was too plainly marked to be mistaken ; for they all sat waiting in mute silence, until I had invited the inquiring souls to come forward ; and then coolly obtruded their grave admonitions on those who had been pricked in their hearts, and were become impatiently violent to grasp the kingdom of heaven ; shutting me out entirely, and concluding with a notice that their new minister would preach on the following Wednesday evening, and the next Lord's-day ; directing those who wished for further instructions to apply to them at their several residences. My affections were, however, very strongly attached to my little flock ; and on the Wednesday evening, I went again to hear the new minister ; but the Lord said unto me, " It is enough ; I will take thee away from them, and I will put bands upon thee, and thou shalt not go out amongst them ; and I will make thy tongue cleave to the root of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be a reprover to them, for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak unto thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God, He that heareth, let him hear ; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear : for they are a rebellious house." Ezek. iii. 25—27. Thus it was partly with me, for on that very night, I was suddenly attacked with a very severe fit of illness, and confined by it for five weeks, so that I became dumb to them indeed. After I had been ill three weeks, the Rev. Mr. Moffit, one of our principal Methodist preachers, came to Hartford ; and, under his ministry,

the revival which the Lord had began by my instrumentality was renewed again ; the chapel became completely deserted, the new minister became discouraged, and shortly withdrew altogether.

Mr. Moffit spent several weeks in Hartford, and preached every evening in the week for the greater part of the time ; the people flocked, from every part of the town, to his ministry ; and many people were turned unto the Lord. Many of the Methodists and many of my congregation also experienced, under him, a great revival of the work of the Lord in their souls. Before he left the city, it pleased God to raise me up and enable me to go and hear him, and render my thanksgivings to God for His great goodness and tender care towards me in my illness : before I was able to go abroad, those very persons who had treated me so unhandsonely called to inquire after my health ; and expressed their hope that God would bless and restore me to health, that I might soon resume my labours among them again, saying, that I had already effected much good to many souls ; but as the Lord had said unto me, " when I speak, thou shalt hear : and I will put words in thy mouth and thou shalt speak ; " on my recovery, I left the city for a short time ; when I returned again, these people were extremely anxious for me to preach to them, and by the grace of God, I resumed my former station and continued my labours amongst them for some time without interruption ; the Lord having made it increasingly manifest that He had sent me, and that my ministry was from Him.

A few weeks before I finally left this city, I learnt that Mrs. Adams, the wife of a gentleman in the legal

profession, had been dangerously ill for a long time, and had expressed a great desire to see me ; I, therefore, without an invitation, called at her residence, but I was so weak at the time, that when I arrived there I fainted, and was taken to bed ; when I recovered, I was conducted into her chamber, where Mr. Adams, and all the family were collected, expecting to see her breathe her last ; she had been ill so long a time, and wasted so much, that her skin had been broken through by the pressure of the bones. After a little conversation, I inquired if I should pray with her ; consent being given, I bowed down before God, and lifted up my heart in supplication to Him on her behalf. It was a time of much power ; and all the family were bathed in tears. Mrs. Adams' sister accompanied me to the door on my retiring, and asked me if I did not think her sister was very near her end. I said, 'no : I think she will recover, for God showed me this in the time of prayer.' She then sent one of the servants to lead me home ; the next morning I was so ill as to require medical aid ; and the physician who attended Mrs. Adams was sent for. He seemed much pleased to communicate to me the intelligence that Mrs. Adams was vastly better ; and before I left the city, she was down stairs, at the head of the family. This circumstance made a great impression on the inhabitants of the city, who thought it strange, indeed, that God, in answer to my prayer, should heal the sick : the intelligence flew from street to street, that Mrs. Adams was recovered ; and those reverend gentlemen, who had so strenuously exerted themselves to silence my ministry, were themselves completely disconcerted, and their

objections silenced. I might add many more of the kind and condescending corroborations, the Lord was pleased to manifest on my behalf in that city; but I forbear narrating any further instances, and leave them to be further revealed in the disclosures of another life.

The wonderful revivals of the work of God, some of which I have attempted to describe, were not done in a corner; but extended throughout the greater part of the vast territory of the United States: many were the labourers, zealous and devoted their spirits, and indefatigable their exertions, whom the Lord raised up, and sent forth to achieve these blessed conquests, the reports of which have long since reached the ears even of British Christians, and excited amongst them some searchings of heart, and some curiosity to have further information respecting them; insomuch that I have understood that men of high repute for learning and wisdom, have been sent over to ascertain the nature, as well to investigate the means and extent of those great transatlantic revivals: what report of the good land they returned with, I have not been informed, but generally I have found that the wise and learned have seldom experienced much of the heavenly discipline of God's Holy Spirit; "the world by wisdom knew not God;" and though many Christians are at immense pains to acquire the wisdom of this world, God bringeth it to nought, and taketh them in their own craftiness; He hideth His counsel from the "wise and prudent, and revealeth it to babes." The man who would judge of so high a matter as a revival of the kingdom of heaven upon earth, must be spiritual (he need not be learned) himself; for the spiritual man judgeth all things; yea,



even the deep things of God, yet he himself is judge of no man, for no man can fathom the sacred Urim and Thummim, or as St. John says, the holy anointing or unction which abides in his soul.

I left Hartford for Boston, in the state of Massachusetts, in company with a lady, who was from the latter city: and the Lord went before me and cleared up the way; for, in the city of Boston, many doors were opened for my reception; and the Lord wrought wonderfully among the people. Many of the brethren were going to a camp meeting at Cape Codd, about sixty miles from Boston, and invited me to go with them, which I did with great pleasure, and we had very pleasant weather. Many thousands attended at that meeting, and the Lord manifested forth his glory and his grace. Hundreds came to that camp-meeting, to make sport and derision of the saints, and of their worship, who returned home themselves rejoicing in God their Saviour. A band of young gentlemen, connected with the highest families in the town of Lynn, chartered a large vessel, brought their tent, provisions, and every other necessary for a week's sojourn on the camp ground, with the wicked intention not only of greatly annoying us, but of dispersing the camp meeting altogether: the manner in which they approached the encampment rendered it but too evident what kind of persons they were, and for what purpose they came. When these wanton young gentlemen arrived upon the ground, they went from tent to tent, and appeared to be greatly struck with astonishment at the novel appearance of the scene; for the Lord had set the hearts and consciences of the

people in motion; some of them were weeping with godly penitence; others were rejoicing in the salvation of Christ, manifested to their souls; in the public services, the ministers were as a flaming torch, and their words as a two edged sword; and the powerful discourses they preached from the platform, made a wonderful impression on these giddy young men, and their conduct became greatly altered. On the Thursday, between twelve and two o'clock, matters were so changed that they prepared their tent for religious service, and sent for me to come and preach to them; I went accordingly, and commenced the meeting, and some of our ablest preachers followed soon after and assisted me, and the Lord owned and blessed our message, and many of these young gentlemen became deeply affected, and cried to God for mercy. The ministers evinced the greatest attention and tender care of them; but they more particularly desired to hear, "the woman:" and the next day I was sent for to preach to them again; after which, we all attended the prayer meeting at the preachers' stand; and many of them found mercy with God. When the camp meeting broke up, all of them with the exception of four, together with many others both white and coloured, manifested the triumphs of redeeming grace, and evinced a saving conversion to God; and the happy result of that meeting was, that, in a short space of time, in the town of Lynn alone, upwards of two hundred persons were added to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The brethren residing at the Cape having strongly solicited me to tarry for a time with them, I consented, and instead of returning with the brethren to Boston,

went home with the Cape friends, and travelled with the itinerating preachers on the different circuits of the Cape district, and with great success ; for the glorious camp meeting we had just before attended, had laid the foundation for an extensive and continuous revival : the fields were indeed white, already to harvest ; and we went to reap them, and receive the rich wages of souls for our hire.

In the course of my excursions, I went into the Haverich circuit, and entered one of their chapels. After the service had commenced, I observed a young man in the assembly who appeared to idolise himself, and to soar very high into the regions of self-conceit ; his excessive self-complacency very much attracted my attention, and I felt a desire to have some conversation with him ; not suspecting that there was any probability of its coming to pass ; but God overrules and arranges matters for His people, that they may glorify His name. It happened that we went that day to dine with this very young gentleman's father-in-law ; and during the time of dinner he came in. Some one at the table then asked him if there were many persons in attendance at the meeting in the morning ; to which he replied, no ; adding, that he was a fool in going, for it was complete folly to attend those meetings. These words came very painfully to my heart ; but as I was to preach in the afternoon, and required much self-composure, I passed over his remarks in silence ; when the service of the afternoon was over, I returned to tea with the family, and being now at liberty, having no sermon before me to preach, I was not indisposed for a colloquy with him ; he was also desirous of having

some conversation with me, and had prepared himself for that purpose ; after tea, he came again, and brought many others with him to witness his feats of prowess : so he promptly commenced an attack upon me, worked himself into a great fury, and spouted away for a time ; but his ammunition was quickly exhausted ; his creed, if he had any, was that of modified deism ; looking for a future paradise to be enjoyed by all men indiscriminately ; he was, however, deplorably ignorant of the Scriptures ; I replied to him according to the ability the Lord gave me ; and conviction of the truth went with the word, so that he became of the number of believers in Christ, and subsequently behaved to me with very great kindness—to God be all the praise for ever and ever.

My ministry every where, on the Cape, was very numerously attended : there were but few buildings that could contain the numbers who flocked to hear the word of the Lord ; as I journeyed from place to place, many an open waggon became my pulpit, from which I preached in the open air to listening multitudes, the candidates for immortality, and directed them to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world. My own soul was filled with heavenly hope, which maketh not ashamed ; my affections were set upon things above ; my treasure was in heaven ; my hope bloomed with the glories of immortality and eternal life : it was the anchor of my soul, sure and steadfast ; I rejoiced in hope of the glory of God ; and in my ministry, I determined to be conversant with no other topic, to know nothing amongst men but Jesus Christ and him crucified. The divine treasures which God imparted into my earthen vessel I



freely poured out ; and the Lord constantly replenished me with more ; so that I was always being exhausted, and ever being filled with the heavenly treasures of divine knowledge ; and became more and more able to bring out of the good treasure in my heart things new and old. The Lord enabled me to keep my heart with all diligence ; and having my own soul right with God, I was enabled to set others right also. I affectionately press it upon the attention of every minister of the gospel, who really desires that his ministry may be effectual to convert and sanctify men, to attend to himself first, to see that the work of genuine conversion be perfected in his own heart ; that he is truly born again of the incorruptible seed of the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever ; that he is thoroughly cleansed from his old sins ; enjoying the remission of sins and justification to life ; that the word of God abideth in him, and is fruitful ; that he enjoys the spirit of adoption ; is sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise ; that the Holy Ghost dwelleth in him ; that he comes to the light in every thing ; is pure in heart, and hath his eye single to the glory of God ; that he is sanctified by the truth ; purified by obeying it ; that he abideth in Christ the true vine ; dwelleth in God and God in him ; that he hath continual communion with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ ; that he lives and walks in the Spirit ; is led by the Spirit ; that he is not proud of these attainments, but simple and of a childlike disposition ; that his heart is preserved in a state of transparency, and so free from guile and sin, that he would not be reluctant to have it probed by a truly godly-experienced and judicious Christian of

like attainments. Let him see to it that he is meek, lowly, patient, contrite and humble, habituated to self-denial, filled with charity or love which is the bond of perfectness; that his will is entirely submitted and resigned to the will of God; that his meat and drink is to do the will of his Father in heaven; that his attitude is that of a self-devoted, living sacrifice, utterly at the disposal of his God, taking up every cross placed before him; that he meekly and practically regards the sayings of Jesus and the precepts of the Christian Scriptures, aiming at a perfect observance of them all, that he may become a finished disciple of Jesus Christ, exercised in all parts of Christian duty and practise, and copying the pattern set by his Lord, devoting soul and body, time and opportunities, money and means, his entire all to the service of Jesus; not wedded to this life, but holding it as loosely as possible, rejoicing in hope of the glory of God, and seeking an increased knowledge of Christ, the fellowship of His sufferings, and the spiritual might of His resurrection. Such a man as this, if called and sent by Christ into His vineyard, is able to make men wise unto salvation; and is the kind of minister whose labours Jesus will deign to bless. Such ministers have adorned and blessed the church in all ages; and such ministers occasionally adorn it still. It is an axiom which holds good in Christianity, as well as in common life, that whatever man has borne, been, or done, man may bear, be, or do; and there is no more impossibility of attaining eminent saintship in the present day, than there was two thousands of years since: with the Scriptures in our hands and the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we possess

L. C. C.

advantages even beyond those Christians who enjoyed the living ministry of the apostles. He who would be a master in Israel should possess such an experimental knowledge of the Christian religion, as an university cannot bestow, but which is the exclusive endowment of the Holy Ghost. A well-disciplined minister is a father in Christ; an elder in the Christian church; and happy is that flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made him an overseer: who are fed by him, not with college lore, nor with orations such as are emitted by divines not yet out of their teens; but with such instructions as the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. When ministers aim at revivals in their flocks, they must first obtain them in their own souls; for he who has left his first love, is in no condition to communicate the glowing flame to others: he must first remember from whence he has fallen, and repent, and do his first works; strengthen the things that remain; stir up the gift of God in himself; obtain the pure gold of true faith, well tried in the fire, and anoint his mental eyes with the illuminating eye-salve of divine unction; render his body a temple for the Holy Ghost, and equip himself with the whole armour of God, and then he may efficiently contribute to the health and prosperity of the souls of others; being a discerning, faithful watchman, and a good shepherd to them. I have witnessed such ministers, (who are rightly named 'Great Grace',) lay open the heart, cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God: and with the Spirit's two-edged sword, divide the sinner from his sins, slay the lion, and bring him a lamb-like penitent



to the feet of Jesus; then take the new creature by the hand, lead him by the side of still waters, in paths of righteousness; comfort, exhort, warn, instruct, and build him up in our most holy faith, that he may eventually have the joy to present him faultless and perfect in Christ Jesus. Oh! that every leader of souls in Britain may speedily become a Joshua, to bring all the Lord's Israel into the promised rest of faith.

In the course of my travels on the Cape, I one day met with a young lady recently married, whose pride and self-consequence were superlatively high; her parents, brothers and sisters were decidedly religious; but her vanity and haughtiness had hitherto resisted the humbling impressions of true godliness. I felt my mind much drawn after this young lady, but she rejected every advance of mine, and contemptuously avoided my conversation. I spent a day at her father's house; during which time she was with us; but she sat as a queen, and maintained all the dignity of haughty reserve to every religious topic; at night, we had family prayer; and I followed the impressions of my mind, in fervently praying for her; and took my leave of the family. In about two years afterwards, I again met with her mother, who informed me that, on that evening, this young lady was brought to repentance towards God: she was afflicted with penitential anguish to an extraordinary degree, ere she was enabled to exercise faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; since that time, she evinced as great anxiety to see and unbosom her mind to me as she had previously to shun and repulse me. Verily, God doeth all things well: all praise to His glorious wisdom and power; His rich and free mercy, and adorable grace.



Having reaped a rich harvest of souls on the Cape, I returned to the city of Boston, where I remained for a few months ; the Lord having made my way prosperous, many doors were opened to me, the word of God had free course and was glorified ; many who sat in darkness there saw the great and the true light, and turned to the Lord with all their heart ; from thence I proceeded to the city of Salem, and laboured amongst the Methodists with much attendant prosperity. The coloured people had a chapel in course of erection, and stood in great need of assistance ; the Methodist brethren therefore, in conjunction with several gentlemen in the city, subscribed a considerable sum of money, with which they furnished them with a pulpit and seats for the chapel. When the building was got in readiness, I delivered the first discourse therein, from Zech. ii. 10, "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion ; for I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord." The Lord graciously manifested and recorded His name there on that occasion ; and many considered their ways, and turned from their vanities to serve the living God. The Lord was pleased also to apply a portion of His word with much power to my own soul, as it was delivered by His angel. Zech iii. 7. "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, if thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by."

In that city, the ladies who were connected with the several Christian denominations, were in the habit of holding a monthly union prayer-meeting together ; and as this brought the different denominations into

closer contact with each other, it caused a rich intercourse of sanctified gifts and graces amongst them, for the edification of the general body; it also greatly promoted Christian love, for the pure, genial currents supplied by genuine gospel faith, purified the disciples from party bigotry, and caused them to love one another for the truth's sake. It was delightful indeed to hear Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists, avow the rich enjoyments they had in the spirit of adoption from God, who gave forth the corroborating testimony of His divine witness with their spirits to their heavenly filiations. The Christian church should manifest one fold and one shepherd; one body and spirit; one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; and one God and father of all who is above all, and through all, and in all. O that the Christian community in Great Britain were all of one heart and one soul; only, but earnestly, contending for the faith once delivered to the saints; that there were no divisions among them, but all were speaking the same things, and perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment; none being puffed up one against another, knowing that ministerial partizanship, doctrinal divisions, and sectarian prejudices flow from sheer carnality, and savours nothing of the grace of God. Rom. xvi. 17. 1 Cor. iii. 3. During my stay in Salem, a great alteration was effected in the morals of the colored friends; I hope to be forgiven by my English brethren, in saying, that it is not an uncommon thing for white Christians to reprobate the morals of their sable brethren, without an adequate occasion; the intelligence, the circumstances, and the habits of the two races are widely different; and it is

the part of a moted eye and biassed heart to require the same standard tale of bricks from the Ethiopian family ! Or, in other words, an observance by them of all the proprieties attached to the refined Christian morals of the more cultivated Saxon stock ; the illiterate colored Christian is competent to, and ought, practically, to carry out the precepts of the Christian religion to the utmost extent his circumstances admit of ; but Christian charity will not rashly judge him, for an imperfect conformity to the politer standard of morals and tasteful delicacy, which have been superadded to the Christian precept, by the supererogative pride of high-toned sensibility and civilization ; a more perfect exemplification of Christian morals than that which characterized the apostolic era has never been attained by any later age ; but its simplicity and want of polish would have presented a very rude and vulgar exhibition in contrast with the whited exterior, the artificial delicacy and current respectability or pride of life of much of the present-day Christianity. The immoralities of the Abyssinian brethren, when they occur, are obvious and glaring, and are easily visited and purged by the discipline of the church ; but those of more polished Christians too often flow in a deep and mighty under current : no principles are more vicious, no practices more immoral and debasing, than covetousness and worldly pride ; the Scriptures exclude those who are guilty of them from any inheritance in the kingdom of God and Christ ; yet it is a fact but too well known, that these vices have an unrestrained course throughout the more civilized Christian communities ; and that an attempt to expel these immoralities from those communities, by subjecting all such offenders to the



discipline of the church, would fill with confusion, and crumble to ruins every denominational superstructure in Christendom.

The Lord's blessing on my visit to Salem was made apparent by the improvement which followed in the morals and habits of the colored population ; many of whom became truly devout, righteous, holy, godly, spiritual, and heavenly-minded : by devout, I mean, devotional and religious ; righteousness consists in being and doing right ; holiness is purity internally and practically. Godliness is an assimilation of the human character to that of our heavenly Father ; spirituality is such a practical acquaintance with spiritual things, and abiding sense of the existence and agency of spiritual and invisible beings, and converse with them, as gives a complete ascendancy to the moral and mental powers over the animal propensities ; but it more especially consists in a discernment of the presence and operations of the Holy Spirit, fellowship with God and his Son Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, together with an habitual and deep consciousness, and a blooming prospect of the momentous realities of a future life. Heavenly-mindedness consists in having our mind and hope fixed upon the things above ; on the mercy-seat and throne of grace, the heavenly Jerusalem ; the mansions which Jesus is preparing for us there ; the heavenly Mount Zion ; the general assembly and church of the first-born ; the innumerable company of angels ; the blood of sprinkling ; the mediator and high-priest of the new covenant ; and upon God the judge of all. Many of my sable brethren became eminently spiritual, having ceased to be led by their animal appetites and



worldly lusts, they were led by the Holy Spirit of God which dwelt in them, and whose temples they were. In the Methodist connexion, also, I had an extensive circle of young ladies who were constant attendants upon my ministry, and who were in an especial manner my charge in the Lord ; these manifested great diligence in their pursuit of the higher attainments of experimental spirituality. The love of God being richly shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost, many of them attained to considerable eminence in the apprehension of, and conformity to, the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge ; abiding in Christ, dwelling in God, and walking in the light as God is in the light, they experienced that perfect love which casteth out fear ; the holy vigour and zeal with which they pressed forward after the life of God, the avidity with which they drank until they were filled with the Spirit, and the wonderful revelations God was pleased to manifest to them, provoked me to run forward in the heavenly race with increased earnestness, lest they should overtake, and leave me behind them : but as the Lord set me as their leader, He sustained me as such ; and an abundance of grace was given to me as His commissioned servant, to maintain my leadership. I abode in Salem throughout the winter, and a most delightful winter it was.

I also paid a visit to the friends at Lynn ; a town to which reference has already been made ; the Rev. J. Melvill was the minister stationed there, who invited me to preach in his pulpit, which I did to an overflowing audience : on that occasion, I had the happiness to see many of those dear young men who had attended the camp-meeting as before narrated. On the conclu-

sion of the service, they formed themselves into two ranks down the aisle of the chapel in order to salute me as I passed betwixt them; and we parted in the hope of a joyful meeting on the morning of the resurrection.

From Salem I again returned to Boston, which city I left in May, 1830, in company with a Mrs. Ruby, who had been thither on a visit, and was now returning to Portland, in the State of Maine, in the north-eastern part of America. We had a pleasant passage by water; the night was calm, and we reached Portland about eight o'clock in the morning. It is a beautiful city, situated on the sea coast; built on a considerable elevation, and the houses being white, it presents a very conspicuous and fine appearance from the sea.

On my arrival, I found the friends to be a very benevolent and kind-hearted people: they gave me a very cordial reception; we quickly became well acquainted and at home in each other's company, and it was a blessed visit to my own soul and to their souls also. The Abyssinian chapel, a very neat and pretty erection, was appropriated to my service: and the news of a female being about to preach therein, attracted a great number of persons from all parts of the city; the Lord applied my message to the hearts of many of them, and they cried to Him for mercy, they sought Him with their whole heart, and He was found of them to be a God merciful and gracious, pardoning iniquity, transgression, and sin; and like the eunuch, they went on their way rejoicing. The chapel was constantly filled during my stay, amongst them: many were made happy in the love of God, enjoyed a sense of His approbation and the witness of His Spirit

with their spirits that they were the children of God ; many strangers were continually attracted to the chapel ; and on one Lord's day, a gentleman was present whose emotion was so strong as to excite much attention ; he at length retired to the lobby where he vented his feelings in sobs and tears : he stated to one of the brethren that he was a sea-captain, a stranger to earthly fears, that his heart was attracted and rivetted by the discourse which was in the course of delivery, so that he could not retire from the place ; but being unable to repress his feelings, and desirous of evading observation, he preferred standing in the lobby. Another person was there also under similar circumstances, who called upon me the next day, and informed me that he had been a sailor during the last forty years, and had encountered every form of marine danger : that he had belonged to a ship of war, and been accustomed to the roaring of cannons, and all the tragic horrors of naval warfare, but never had felt dismayed by any accumulation of peril ; he now wept bitterly, and we both knelt before the Lord in supplication, and the Lord heard and spoke peace to his soul. Many other instances of the Lord's especial favour to me, and blessing upon my ministerial labours in that city I might relate ; but the limits I am compelled to assign to the compass of this volume require their omission.

After remaining a few months in Portland, I was moved to travel further into the State of Maine, and I journeyed in company with Mr. Black, a Baptist minister to the town of Brunswick ; a town eminent in the State for its literary institutions. Mr. Black preached there on the Lord's-day, and I was invited to occupy the

pulpit of the Baptist chapel on the Monday evening ; which I did, and preached to a very crowded auditory, of whom a large number were collegians : at the close of the meeting, I was invited to preach there again. After this, my mind was impressed that I must go to Bath ; a town about ten miles distant ; though I had received no invitation, possessed no introductory means to any one, neither knew any person there, and had been informed that the town was not inhabited by one person of colour ; my mind was therefore somewhat saddened on account of this impression ; I knew not how to proceed in it ; and committed my way unto God, who in His own way and time brought it to pass.

In a few days I went to preach at a small country village ; and, a female from Bath being present at the meeting, I sent a message by her to the religious people of Bath, requesting permission to come and preach to them ; this was the first time in my life that I had ever requested as a favour to myself, that which in the nature of things is the communication of a favour. In a few days I received an answer from them, intimating that they neither knew nor had heard of me previously ; but that they regularly held a prayer-meeting at certain times at a certain house about a mile from the town, at which I might attend if I thought proper.

Although this reply seemed rather uncourteous and grating to the feelings, yet the matter was from the Lord, and I durst not refuse even an invitation so uncouth. Accordingly a kind sister conveyed me in her chaise to the place on the day of their next prayer meeting : having alighted, we inquired of the housewife if that was the meeting-house ; she admitted that it was ;



'but,' says she, 'who asked you to come here?' Having given her the name of the friend who had sent to me, she added, 'Oh! then go to him, go to him, he will tell you all about it.' It is to be deplored that some Christians have 'Nabal' so prominently inscribed upon their tempers, that they display an equal moroseness with the canine snarlers: such are unmindful of the authority and disobedient to the laws of their Master, by which they are required to be courteous, gentle and kind; and they greatly disgrace the Christian profession by their churlishness. We departed from that surly abode, and went into the town, but were unable to find one person belonging to the society or who knew anything of our coming; nor could any of them accommodate us with a night's lodging: we therefore rode back to the house where the meeting was to be held, and the time for its commencement was nearly arrived. We again alighted and knocked at the door, and it was opened by the female before mentioned, who, when she saw us, shut it again in our faces and turned away. As she did not lock the door, I opened it and entered into the house. A great many people and the preachers were already assembled; I sat down in the meeting and reflected on the repulsive reception I had met with; and conscious that I had now discharged my duty before God, I resolved, if not requested to preach, to sit in silence and wait before Him.

When the time for service arrived, one of the preachers came to me and said, 'Sister, I suppose you wish to address the meeting,' to which I assented: and as he stated that the assembly were desirous of hearing me, I went into the desk opened the meeting, and preached

from Isaiah xlviii. 18, 'Oh, that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river; and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.' The audience were very numerous and attentive; much feeling was excited and many tears were shed, for the Lord was with me in the work, to give efficacy to the word of His grace. At the conclusion of the service, the society were detained to consult on matters of their own; and I retired to prepare for my departure. When we were ready to enter the chaise, some of the sisters came to us, and informed me that I might be accommodated with a lodging at the residence of a lady in the neighbourhood; but as they did not assign any object for my further stay with them, I declined the offer, and departed. I afterwards learnt that they had been consulting about my preaching in the town on the next Lord's day, and had arranged for me so to do; though they did not then inform me of it. After the sermon, my soul was filled with an inexpressibly sweet serenity and heavenly peace. On our way home we called at a house on Brunswick plains, which is midway betwixt the two towns, where one of our friends resided; and as they were preparing supper for us, I sat in thoughtful meditation on the varied goodness of God towards me; and looking upwards, the Lord opened my eyes, and I distinctly saw five angels hovering above and engaged in the praises of God: the raptures of my soul were too awful and ecstatic on that occasion for human description: the sensual world are unacquainted with the overwhelming fascinations which thrill through every instinct of the spiritual mind under the complacent manifestation of ethereal intelligencies

and their enchanting influence. I concluded that this wonderful manifestation was a token for good, and a proof that the Lord was well pleased with the course I had taken; and I was encouraged to hold several meetings throughout the week, and preached on the Lord's day twice on the plains, and once in Brunswick. I learnt, in the meantime, that a great curiosity had been excited in Bath on account of my visit to that place, and that I was anxiously expected there again. On the Lord's day morning, immediately after I had commenced the service, one of the Bath preachers came in, and when the service was over, informed me that he was directed to conduct me to Bath to preach there in the evening; but being then engaged to preach in Brunswick in the evening, he was much disappointed at my declining his invitation; however, I promised to call and preach there when on my journey to Bangor, to which town I purposed shortly to go: in a short time, taking leave of the friends at Brunswick, went to Bath, and was very kindly received by Mr. Wilkinson, one of the preachers: in the evening I preached in their spacious chapel to a very large and attentive audience: after service they made a collection, the whole of which they generously presented to me; being a larger sum than I had received from any other congregation in the State of Maine; they then earnestly requested me to remain a few days with them, and preach again ere I proceeded on my journey, to which I was constrained to consent. As the immense concourse retired from the chapel, the noise of so many hundreds of feet unbroken by any human articulation was very remarkable and excited the surprise of some of the friends

as being very unusual in that town ; but the people obviously had

“ A while forgot their earthly cares,  
And soared above this vale of tears,  
To yon celestial hill.”

I attended the different meetings of their classes during my stay there, and enjoyed a very pleasant visit among them ; and, having preached to them again, they gave me letters of recommendation to the methodist ministers who resided along the course of my journey through the State. I could not but gratefully regard the kind dealings of my Heavenly Father towards me in my visits to this people ; although my reception was so rude and repulsive at the first, yet my way was enlarged, my messages welcomed, and my subsequent treatment warmly cordial and affectionate : such are frequently the ways in which the Lord conducts His saints—

“ Behind a frowning Providence,  
He hides a smiling face.”

Having preached to them on the Thursday evening, my departure was arranged for the morrow ; the friends having obtained my promise, that, with the Lord's permission, I would come and preach to them again on my return. On the morning, before I left, the superintendent minister of the Circuit came on a visit to Bath from Augusta ; and hearing of my preaching there, treated it at first as many other ministers do, with great contempt, and reprobated the ministry of a female ; but after hearing somewhat more of the matter, his sentiments became changed, he was introduced to me, and became one of my very kind friends.



It is true, that in the ordinary course of Church arrangement and order, the Apostle Paul laid it down as a rule, that females should not speak in the church, nor be suffered to teach ; but the Scriptures make it evident that this rule was not intended to limit the extraordinary directions of the Holy Ghost, in reference to female Evangelists, or oracular sisters ; nor to be rigidly observed in peculiar circumstances. St. Paul himself attests that Phœbe was a servant or deaconess of the Church at Cenchrea ; and as such was employed by the Church to manage some of their affairs ; and it was strange indeed, if she was required to receive the commissions of the Church in mute silence, and not allowed to utter a syllable before them. The apostle John wrote his second epistle to a Christian lady, as a matron of eminence and authority ; exhorting her believing children by her, and bidding her to prove the doctrines of those who visited her in the capacity of Christian teachers : honourable mention is made of many other Christian females who promoted the cause of Jesus ; and Paul wished every assistance to be given to those women who laboured with him in the Gospel. Tryphena laboured with Tryphosa in the Lord ; mention is made of the services of many of the sisters of Nereus, of the mother of Rufus, many others are also very respectfully referred to by St. Paul the prophet Joel predicted that God would pour His Spirit on His handmaids, and that they should prophecy as well as His servants ; and this prophecy, Peter, on the day of Pentecost, asserted was fulfilled ; and if so, the Christian dispensation has for its main feature the inspirations of the holy prophetic Spirit, descending on the handmaids as well as on the

servants of God ; and thus qualifying both for the conversion of men, and 'spread of the Gospel. Priscilla took upon herself the work of a teacher, when, in conjunction with her husband Aquila, she expounded to Apollos the way of God more perfectly ; the four virgin daughters of Philip the Evangelist, were prophetesses or exhorters, probably assisting their father in his evangelic labours : being prophetesses or exhorters, the work in which they were employed was prophecy or exhortation ; and those brethren certainly err, who fetter all and every ecclesiastical circumstance, and even the extraordinary inspirations of the Holy Spirit with the regulations given by the apostle to a church, the brethren of which extensively possessed the gift of utterance, and were therefore in no need of female speakers ; and a Church, too, which owing to its disorders and excesses, required the most stringent rules for its proper regulation. The superintendent minister desired me to tarry some days in Augusta ; furnished me with letters of introduction to the brethren there, and in the event of the preacher, who was appointed to preach on the following Lord's day in his stead ; failing to come, he made the necessary arrangements, and directed me to supply his lack of service. I set off for Augusta in the steam boat at two o'clock, P.M., and arrived there at nine in the evening ; and it being dark, I was unable to find the inn to which I had been directed ; but the Lord was with me to preserve me. Being alone so late at night, I felt uncomfortable, as a female and a stranger, and wandered about until I came to the principal hotel, into which I entered and received great kindness from the landlord. In the morning he

went himself to Mr. Robinson, and informed him I was inquiring for him, whereupon that gentleman came to the hotel for me, conducted me to his house, and very kindly entertained me. From the moment I consented to tarry in Augusta, till the next Lord's day, I felt a very heavy cloud upon my soul, for I had received no direction from the Lord upon it, but had acted upon my own judgment. I went mourning by day, and passed two nights in sleepless sorrow. Mr. Robinson informed me that the committee of the society were about to meet in the evening, that the question of my preaching there must be submitted to them, and he would inform me of their decision, but the time passed by and I heard nothing thereof. On the Lord's day morning, after breakfast, as I was praying in private to my heavenly Father, and desiring to know why my soul was thus shut up in confusion and obscurity, the Lord was pleased to give me this answer, "Thus saith the Lord, the brethren are divided in their sentiments; nevertheless, though clouds and darkness be with thee, I will deliver thee; my presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." I then went into the parlour, and said to Mrs. Robinson, "My dear madam, since my coming here, I have not enjoyed that rich endowment of the light of the Holy Spirit which I usually experience, nor could I imagine the reason thereof. I further stated, that my heavenly Father had showed me the reason, viz., that I have come amongst a people who are divided in their sentiments; and that the brethren are not perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment. She then burst into a flood of tears, and said, "Well, if they will not receive those whom God is pleased to



send, we cannot help it." When the time came for morning service, I accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Robinson to the chapel. The congregation assembled, but the minister, who was appointed to preach, did not come : after waiting some time for the preacher, and he not coming, Mr. R. came and requested me to take the pulpit ; but having made no preparation whatever to conduct the public services, I declined, stating that I had no desire to intrude myself upon the attention of the congregation contrary to the feeling of the church ; upon this, a gentleman present said he would not bind the rest of the brethren by his peculiar view ; that he would go to another meeting, and leave them at liberty to act as they pleased. He then withdrew ; and one of the brethren rose and assured me that all the brethren present were of one mind as to my preaching ; and hoped that I would consider myself amongst my friends and not feel the least embarrassment.

I then repaired to the desk, and conducted the service, though with but little of my accustomed unction and freedom. In the afternoon, however, it pleased God to grant us a time of refreshing indeed. The chapel, which was large and commodious, was densely crowded ; and, at the conclusion, one of the brethren arose and proclaimed that a meeting would be held there in the evening also ; and in the evening, so great was the concourse, that crowds remained at the chapel doors unable to gain an entrance ; and numbers were forced to retire disappointed of any accommodation. The presence of the Holy One was also manifested, and the glory of God filled the house. Although greatly fatigued with the exertions of this day, at five o'clock



on the following morning, I took the stage for Bangor, and rode seventy miles that day over a remarkably uneven ground, sometimes ascending the sides of the mountains, and at other times jolting through the rocky valleys. After a very fatiguing journey we arrived at Bangor at four o'clock, P. M., and I was kindly received by Mr. Brown, a very respectable gentleman of colour, who stood in high repute among the people : this gentleman went and apprised the Methodist preacher of my arrival : who soon came to see me, and gave me invitations to the pulpit, the classes, and the family in which he resided. I attended their quarterly meeting, and also a love feast, with very great enjoyment and profit to my own soul : the meeting was attended with divine power of very perceptible density ; the people spoke with great feeling, and fluent utterance ; the Spirit of the Lord directed and inspired the meeting, and much good was effected on that occasion. My visit to Bangor was replete with reciprocal benefits to them and myself. I truly saw there the grace of God, and was glad ; for the Lord sent the Spirit of His Son into the hearts of many, crying, Abba, Father ! and sealed them with His Holy Spirit of promise. After remaining with them a few days, I took my leave of them and returned by the route by which I came. The day was very rainy ; and the coach was closely shut up, that no inside passenger could be seen ; nevertheless, I had not been in Augusta an hour, before Mr. Robinson came to the house where I was, to engage me to preach in the chapel that evening. I accordingly went and preached, during one of the most terrific thunder-storms I ever witnessed ; the heavens gathered blackness ; the God of glory thundered,

He uttered His voice, and that a mighty voice, which divided the flames of fire: the awfulness of the evening gave an increased solemnity to the service; in the night a vessel was lost upon the coast; and all hands except two perished. In the morning I went by the stage coach to Bath; and two young men, the only survivors of the crew of the wrecked vessel were amongst the passengers. I was very kindly received by my dear friends in Bath; and, according to previous engagement, I preached in their Chapel in the evening; and a delightful visitation of the love of God was enjoyed by the congregation. I felt a most spiritual union with this people, which I believe will be renewed with increased delights in the world of bliss; the Lord had enabled me to endure with meekness and patience, the repulsive treatment I met with from them on my first introduction amongst them; and we afterwards became more closely united and endeared to each other, than we perhaps might have been, if my first reception had been more courteous; their subsequent behaviour was full of kindness and tender affection; we enjoyed many happy hours in each other's company, and the time of my departure was painfully affecting. I then returned to Portland, after an absence of about three months; and after an abode there of some few weeks, I journeyed to another part of the Lord's heritage, going from one town to another, the Lord having opened many doors to me, and given me access to every denomination of Christians, my labours greatly abounded. My earthen vessel was continually exhausted, and as continually replenished; my bodily frame was often wearied in the service of my Saviour, Proprietor and Lord; and many an

hospitable home was opened by his providential care, to furnish me with refreshment and repose.

“ Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by thy help I’ve come,  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.”

At one little town that I visited, it having been announced that I should preach in a large school room usually appropriated for that purpose; when I was proceeding thither, accompanied by some friends, at the time appointed, my mind suddenly became disquieted; and I said, ‘ what is the matter, for I feel that there is something not right; the friends who were with me, however, made light of my inquiry; but it soon appeared that some dissolute and ruffianly persons had conspired together to come and break up the meeting; and they had so far intimidated the brethren who should have opened the doors, that they durst not go forward to prepare the place! One of the sisters then procured the key, and opened the room. A great concourse of people assembled; and I commenced the service in entire ignorance of the disturbance which was projected. In a short time afterwards the conspirators entered the room, their leader tarrying at the door; the power of the Lord was visibly present; and the rabble were overawed and restrained from their purpose. Their champion growing impatient, then made his appearance—an unusually stout and ferocious looking man: he came close up to me, making a demonstration as if he intended to seize or strike me, but this producing no impression upon me, he stood over me as if he would take my life; but God was with me, and I felt no fear. He

then seated himself beside his companions, pulled their hair, and groaned aloud, in derision of the Methodists ! Those groans rested upon my spirit ; the thread of my discourse was suspended, and I was directed to rebuke and exhort him personally, telling him that those groans would soon be repeated in reality ; and it was not improbable that he might be suddenly cut off from the land of the living, and required to give a woeful account of himself at the bar of God. I thus cleared my soul of his blood, and left him in the hands of God. On the next day, as I was walking in the town, this very man came and civilly accosted me, and invited me to call at his house, which I did, and prayed with him and his family, and departed. Proceeding further, I met with the gang of his confederates ; who addressed me, and entreated my forgiveness for their misbehaviour on the previous evening ; and while I assured them of my forgiveness, I exhorted them to seek forgiveness from God, whose majesty had been insulted by their disrespectful conduct toward His servants and the ordinance of His worship. I then left the town ; and, in a few days afterwards, I learnt that their champion had died suddenly, from the rupture of a blood-vessel in the lungs ! having gone from his house but fifteen minutes before in perfect health : this event made a deep impression on the minds of the people in that locality, and caused the fear of God to rest upon many. I then visited another part of that country, where an abundant field of labour was presented before me ; and the Lord applied His word as a two-edged sword, to the conviction and awakening of many souls ; but lest I should be too much elated with my ministerial prosperity, my course received a



check by the oversetting of the chaise in which I was returning one evening from the house of God, by which my ankle was broken, and I was laid by for a time; but after a few months, my hurt was recovered, and I resumed my work in the vineyard of the Lord. I then returned to Portland, and thence proceeded to Boston, which I left for Rhode Island; where I passed some time amongst the Christian brethren. In the town of Providence there was a great shaking among the dry bones; the Spirit of God entered into them, and many began to live. I proceeded from thence to New Bedford, where I was cordially received by the minister of the Freewill Baptist congregation. I preached there many times; and then went to the Island of Nantucket, intending, in a few days, to return to New York and see my daughter, from whom I had been absent more than two years, and whom I had a great desire to see: but God ordered it otherwise; for when about to sail for New York, the wind shifted, and was so contrary, that the vessel could not go out of the harbour, and I returned again on shore to the house of my friend; before the wind became favourable, I was attacked with a very severe fit of illness, by which I was confined for a long time: I therefore sent for my daughter to come to me; and, on her arrival, the interview was very affecting to us both. The physician gave no hopes of my recovery, but prayer was made on my behalf by day and night. Miss Sarah M. Coffin, a young lady in the vicinity, incessantly visited me, and prayed much and fervently for me. One evening, while praying by my bed-side, she used these words, which were written on my heart as with an iron pen, or the point of a diamond—"Lord, if consistent with thy

will, spare our sister Elaw, and take my life in her stead; for she is useful to thy cause, and I am but a feeble worm, and but of little worth." Her affection for me was as great as that of Aquila and Priscilla for St. Paul, who would have laid down their own necks upon the block for him. One day I was so ill, that my attendants were expecting my breath to cease. The medical attendant came in, and informed them, that he was about to fetch the principal physician on the island to see me. The friends were then sitting around me, and an elderly lady, a Baptist, came into the chamber, sat down, and looked at me awhile, and then said, "Mrs. Elaw, I am bidden to tell you, that you will get better; God has a great work for you yet to do, and I think you will travel some thousands of miles yet." On her departure, our second preacher came in, and such was the weakness of my faith in the word of Him who had said, "Thou shalt see London, and declare my name there," that I requested the minister to attend my funeral; gave him a portion of Scripture to preach from, and the hymns I wished to be sung on the occasion. Having promised compliance, if the event so required, he kneeled down and prayed the Lord to grant that I might yet be raised up, to stand forth in the name of God and declare His truth. While he was praying, I felt the evidence of the Holy Spirit, witnessing, that his prayer was heard, and that God had granted the request of his lips. From that very hour I began to amend; and some time after, Miss Coffin came in and asked how I was, saying, that she had requested a lady with whom she was acquainted, a Quakeress, to make special prayer to the Lord for me; for

said she, "We cannot have thee die." She further stated that the friendly Quakeress had waited upon God on my behalf, and had received this answer by the Holy Ghost: "She shall get better, and in this island shall hereafter be her home." As far as my own mind was concerned, I had no anxiety either to live or die, knowing, that for me to live would be for Christ's service, but to die, my gain. I sometimes thought, I shall never see England: yet it was generally met by an internal whisper, "the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." However after an illness of eight months' duration, my health was re-established, and I was again brought forth to the service of my heavenly master; and the kind friends would not consent for me to leave the island: my daughter also married and settled in it, thus verifying the prediction of the prophetess, that my home should hereafter be on this delightful spot. The Lord thus established my goings here; and, as my strength increased, so also did my labours. I had a numerous class to lead, and much employment in the ministry also. There were two chapels in the occupation of the society; in the one, situated in the upper part of the town, I statedly preached on the Lord's-day afternoon; and, in the evening, I assisted our beloved minister in the large chapel, where we enjoyed a little heaven below. Numerous souls were awakened and converted to God; and inquiry after the way of life and salvation was prevalent in every part of the town. The work of God was our entire pursuit; and we knew nothing among the people, but Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was constantly going from house to house, both early and late; and thus I spent two happy years in the pleasant

island of Nantucket, the Lord blessing both my going out and my coming in.

I afterwards took my daughter with me, and went into the land of our nativity to visit our brethren and see how they did : we came to the city of Philadelphia, had a joyful meeting with our brethren, and abode in that city for a little space : while there, I engaged to go to a small town at some distance, whither I had been once before ; but my arrangements for this journey were twice frustrated ; and on returning from my second disappointment I called upon a friend in Philadelphia, and remarked, that it appeared to be contrary to the mind of God for me to go thither : while thus talking, there appeared a young man standing before me, and although conscious that it was a supernatural appearance, I involuntarily exclaimed, " what is this ? " The suggestion then took possession of my mind, that if I yet persisted in going thither, the Lord would there convert this young man by my ministry as a token that He had sent me. In a third attempt I was more successful ; and when I appeared in the congregation, I looked for him ; but saw no young man whose person and apparel I could identify as the man whom I had seen in my vision : however, on the last evening of my stay there, after I had preached, the same young man, habited in the very apparel I had beheld in the vision, came forward and shook hands with me ; testifying, that the Lord had sent me to awaken his soul, and separate him from his sins unto the Lord. He corresponded with me several years afterward, and gave evidence that he was standing fast in the faith, and progressing in the knowledge of



God, and I was informed that he continually made mention of me in his prayers in the public congregations as well as in private. Having tarried some time with my friends in those parts, we returned back to New York; and having promised to accompany the brethren there to a camp-meeting in the neighbourhood, the time for holding which had not arrived, I left my daughter there, and proceeded on to Albany, which is distant about three hundred miles: the Lord graciously preparing the way by His providential operations. I preached in many chapels throughout that region; and the Methodists opened an extra house purposely for me; a very large and commodious building, but greatly insufficient to contain the masses who flocked thither to hear the word of God: the presence of the Lord accompanied my ministry, and rendered it the power of God to the salvation of many. When it was first announced that a female would preach in that chapel, a gentleman in the vicinity had a strong desire to come and hear me, and proposed for his lady to accompany him; but she objected, that it was unbecoming in a woman to preach; and also, that God never commissioned women to preach: he however, very much urged her, and at length he overcame her objections by persuasions; and they came, and the word was effectually sown in her heart with quickening power from God, her former sentiments became completely reverted; for, as she had never before experienced the searching and converting power of the word under a sermon, she was ready to imagine that none beside myself on earth had received the commission of God to preach the gospel; when she got

home, she read of Christ sending the women to inform the disciples and Peter, that he was risen from the dead; she then reprobated the folly of her former objections; for said she, I now perceive that the first preachers of the resurrection were women: thus the Scriptures become as a new volume, when the Lord opens and illuminates the eyes of our mind. The Scriptures ever develope new and surprising truths to the regenerate soul; and in proportion to our measure of grace, and of the Spirit of God, is the illumination which accompanies our perusal of the Scriptures: that soul is not in the enjoyment of spiritual life, who reads the Scriptures without some perception of their unparalleled glories, the divine lustre of which is so peculiar that the expositions furnished by the wisdom of this world, and all the elucidations of human learning, fail of any imitation of its radiance: it is the high privilege of those who are begotten by the Word of truth to read the Scriptures, not as the word of man, but as they are indeed, the Word of God, a sacred volume, the production of the infinite God; the true key of this heavenly book is the Spirit of truth; under whose guidance and illumination we ascertain and enter into the mind of God; therein beholding as in a mirror, the glory of Jesus, we become increasingly assimilated to the same image, from one degree of glory to another, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

While I was in this district, I had intelligence of my only surviving brother, and took a further journey of three hundred miles to Utica, to see him; I found him there, married and comfortably settled in life. I had not seen him since his departure from our parental

roof; at which time I was a child of six years of age. It was an affectingly joyful meeting to us both; and my gratitude to the Lord was heightened by finding in him a fellow-traveller to the kingdom of heaven, and a member of the Bapt'ist church in Utica. I there met with Mrs. Jones, a female preacher, who had come from England, where it appeared her ministry had been popular, though it was otherwise with her in America. Being myself a member of the parent stock, or the old Methodist Society, I possessed an advantage over many other labourers, in having access to many pulpits which they had not. The dear brethren in Utica freely opened their chapels to me; and we enjoyed many very blessed opportunities of edification to our souls. In one of their large chapels in which I preached, a number of young men conspired together, and came to hear me, with their hands filled with stones; intending, if I uttered any sentiments which they disapproved of, to pelt me therewith: my brother had driven me to the place in a carriage and pair; the chapel was amazingly crowded, the presence of the Lord overshadowed the assembly, and the worship suffered no interruption from the young gentlemen, who came, not to be instructed in the way of truth, but to sit in judgment on and try my discourse by the standard of their petty opinions. After service, my brother went to fetch the horses from some stables adjacent, these tyros were standing there; and he overheard their conversation, discovered their wicked plot and heard them confess that they knew not what ailed them when they entered the chapel; but their arms seemed bound and held down, and were so paralyzed that they dropped



the stones upon the floor, and that their emotions were such during the service as they had never felt before. Having spent a very happy week with my brother, I was compelled to hasten back to New York to fulfil my engagement with the brethren there. On going to the water side to take my passage in the two o'clock steamer, the captain informed me that he had no room for another passenger; though my complexion appeared to be the chief reason of his refusal. I was therefore in a strait, for the performance of my engagement with the brethren in New York depended on my going that day; however, I learnt that there was another steamer about to start at seven in the evening; and on my application, the captain thereof agreed to take me with him. I therefore thanked God and took courage. We had a very pleasant passage, and many of the persons on board belonged to the household of faith; and what with edifying conversation, and the relation of each other's experience, we enjoyed a little Bethel. On the deck in the morning, I noticed several of the gentlemen engaged in very earnest conversation, and perceived that their discourse had reference to me; I therefore withdrew into the cabin, and had been there but a few minutes when one of them came and requested me to preach them a sermon on board. I replied that I felt no desire to preach by the will of man, and to gratify a human curiosity; he then assured me that the gentlemen who concurred in this request, were persons of integrity, whose aim was not novelty and curiosity, but edification. I then objected that the captain might not approve of such an attempt; he said he would ask permission of the captain and



withdrew. The captain's consent being obtained, the crew came, and seated themselves in the cabin to the number of sixty. I then read a hymn, prayed, delivered a short address, concluded the service and took my seat. In a short time, I again perceived them in close conversation, and apparently talking about me, and I therefore withdrew; the same gentleman presently called me back, and said, "these gentlemen are greatly gratified by your discourse, and desire your acceptance of your passage money; upon which he presented me with a sum which more than covered the expense of my passage. I was therefore astonished at the fresh display of the kind providence of my indulgent God; for I was then much straitened in pecuniary matters, and was three hundred miles distant from New York; they then informed me that five of their number were ministers of the gospel, and I saw how remarkably God had overruled matters to prevent my passage in the earliest vessel, to introduce me to so many Christian friends, and arrange for me so convenient a supply of money for my necessities. I arrived in New York safely; and after fulfilling my engagements with the brethren proceeded home to Nantucket, where we found all things well, and the brethren rejoiced at and welcomed our return. We arrived at home on a Saturday, having been a week on our journey from New York, at a very critical point of time. In the evening after our arrival, our dear minister, Mr. Pierce, called to see us, and requested my assistance on the approaching Lord's day. I therefore resumed my former labours in the congregations. On Tuesday, December 10, 1834, my daughter was safely delivered of her first-

born son, and the blessing of the Lord very apparently rested upon the family. Soon after this, our Baptist brethren being destitute of a minister, and the coloured people of that denomination having a chapel on the island, requested me to preach statedly to them ; which, with the consent of Mr. Pierce, I did, and the Lord wrought marvellously among them ; the holy fire was greatly diffused throughout the town ; many of the coloured people were turned to the Lord, and I had the pleasure of seeing them at the sea-side immersed into Christ, they putting on the Lord Jesus in the ordinance of believing baptism. Our methodist class-meetings also were powerfully attended with the presence and operations of the Holy Spirit ; and indeed a wonderful revival of the work of the Lord ensued, which extended to every part of the town, and to every denomination of Christians. On the meeting of the conference, our dear minister, Mr. Pierce, was removed from the island, and the Rev. J. Lovejoy was stationed there in his stead. He manifested himself a faithful minister of the cross of Jesus, and I enjoyed with him the same intimate friendship and unity of faith, of purpose and effort as with Mr. Pierce. My daughter was some time afterwards attacked by a very serious illness, which continued upon her for a long time without any prospect of amendment ; but one day, our minister called to see her, and prayed most fervently with her, and during prayer, the Lord vouchsafed a surprising manifestation to her soul, and from that very hour both she and the infant began to recover.

Having laboured for some time at home with very great success, my mind again began to be impressed

with the weight of more distant spheres of labour, and my impressions seemed directed to the States of New Hampshire and Vermont. About this time it happened that I was from home a few weeks on a visit; and as I was sitting in the house of God, I was caught up in spirit, away from and far above all sublunary things; and appeared to be standing on a very elevated place in the midst of tens of thousands, who were all seated around, clothed in white; my own complexion and raiment were also white, and I was employed in addressing this immense concourse: it was such a scene as had never before entered into my conceptions; and presently it disappeared, and I found myself again in the chapel. I pondered this wonderful vision over in my mind, and concluded that it was given to me as a token that the Lord had destined me for enlarged and more elevated spheres of effort; and the Christian friends to whom I related it, also thought it a prelude to my future ministerial work. After this, I returned home, and in a few weeks afterwards, the same vision, but much nearer and more vivid than before, was presented before me in the chapel, as I was sitting under a sermon; and after a short interval it was presented to me a third time in the class meeting; but more vividly still. I related these visions to Mr. Lovejoy's mother, who concurred in my interpretation of them; adding that she thought it was my duty to go out again on an itinerating ministry: some time after this, the sisters of our society presented me with a quantity of apparel, with some money, which they had secretly prepared and subscribed; bidding me to go in the name of the Lord, and call sinners to repentance. Thus again



was that Scripture verified to me, "Seek ye the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

I left home again in July, 1835; and was absent fifteen months: the Lord graciously prepared the minds of the people everywhere for my ministry; and many received the word with gladness and singleness of heart. I was in Boston when Mr. George Thompson was lecturing there on the abominations of slavery; great crowds were attracted to his lectures, and much light was diffused by his zealous exertions in the cause of emancipation. From Boston I went to Lynn to attend the Conference. I was there introduced to Bishop Heading, and spent an afternoon in his company. He requested a sight of my testimonials and letters of recommendation, which I handed him; and he expressed his entire satisfaction with them, but inquired if it should be found that my ministry was calculated to excite contention, many persons being strongly averse to the ministry of females, whether I would be willing to relinquish it. To which, I replied, that no ambition of mine, but the special appointment of God, had put me into the ministry; and, therefore, I had no option in the matter; and as to such Christians as take up ignorant and prejudiced objections against my labours; men whose whims are law, who walk after the imagination of their own hearts, and to whom the cause of God is a toy; I could not for a moment study their gratification at the sacrifice of duty. It is an easy matter to adopt a string of notions on religion, and make a great ado about them; but the weight of religious obligation, and the principle of conscientious obedience

x



to God are quite another matter. I enjoyed the good bishop's company, and heard him with pleasure avow that he should be sorry in any way to discourage me.

From Lynn I itinerated from city to city, and from village to village, preaching the gospel of the kingdom in the fear of the Lord; and great was the number of those who believed and were baptised.

On my visit to Flushing, I preached from Isaiah xxxviii. 1, "Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die and not live." Under that sermon many persons were awakened, and among the number was one poor woman who cried to the Lord for mercy, and applied for admission into the church; but her application was rejected, because she was then cohabiting with a man by whom she had borne five children, yet had neglected to comply with the matrimonial form required by the law of the state. Whether her position was that of mere concubinage or marriage de facto; and whether the brethren were in their decision equally justified by Scripture as by the law of the state and the sense of society, are points which may admit of much discussion: the marriage customs and laws set forth by God in the Scriptures, are so widely opposite from those of civilized nations in modern times, that when such cases arise, and the sacred and secular authorities clash upon them, it is not easy to determine what course ought to be pursued by a Christian communion. Happily, however, these parties immediately complied with the requirement of the American marriage law, the usage of society, and the dictum of the church; upon which they were admitted into the Methodist connexion, lived happily

in the Lord, and became respected as good members of society.

On leaving Flushing, I took a long and circuitous route, and after an absence of fifteen months, returned home with great peace of mind.

I remained at home this time for the space of three years, with the exception of an occasional short journey, and visit of a few weeks; and throughout this period, my mind was often burdened with the weight of a voyage to England. I often argued the matter before the Lord in prayer, pleading my ignorance, my sex, my colour and my inability to minister the gospel in a country so polished and enlightened, so furnished with Bibles, so blessed with ministers, so studded with temples; but the Lord said, "say not, I cannot speak; for thou shalt go to all to whom I send thee, and what I command thee, thou shalt speak."

In 1837, when on a visit to some religious friends, one morning, I saw a remarkable vision; I appeared to be in a strange place, and conversing with a stranger, when three enormous balls of fire came perpendicularly over my head, and each of them exploded and burst at the same moment: I instantly appeared to fall to the ground; but was caught up by an unseen hand, and placed upon an animal, which darted with me through the regions of the air, with the velocity of lightning, and deposited me inside the window of an upper chamber. I there heard the voice of the Almighty, saying, "I have a message for her to go with upon the high seas, and she will go." This occurrence took place just three years prior to my departure from America.

In 1839, the Lord was pleased to send me again

into the Southern states; and as I travelled from city to city, I felt the impression that the time was near when I must leave the land of my nativity for a foreign shore. In the town of Providence, Rhode Island, I preached on a Thursday evening in a large Room, for Mr. Bedell. On the following Lord's-day, I attended the Wesleyan Chapel, where I heard Mr. Bedell in the morning, and, by his invitation, occupied his pulpit in the afternoon, on which occasion the chapel proved much too small for the crowds which assembled: after the service, some leading gentlemen from another denomination came to Mr. Bedell, and offered him the use of their chapel, which was much larger than his, for the evening service. It was thankfully accepted, and I preached there in the evening, to an immense audience. Mr. Bedell and his lady were both of them natives of England; at that time he was stationed in the Providence circuit. I had not been in their company a quarter of an hour when both of them avowed their concurrent impression, that I was destined by the Lord to minister the gospel in a foreign land: such an observation appeared to me very remarkable. From Providence I visited New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore; and wherever I went, the inquiry was continually made, if I was not about shortly to embark for England, accompanied by observations that my ministry was ultimately destined for a different arena than was furnished by America. I went on to the city of Washington, and our meetings there were greatly distinguished by the presence and operations of the Holy Spirit. Lady Hunter, of whom mention is made in my former visit to that city thirteen years before, presented me with a contribution in aid of this purpose; and I could not but

remark, how the Lord everywhere moved the minds of my friends to make it a topic of conversation; thereby keeping it always before me, and increasing the stimulus of my mind towards it; and without any solicitation of mine, they presented me their cheerful contributions; yea, both white and coloured brethren, voluntarily came forward with their free-will offerings, to enable me to undertake the voyage, and bade me go and preach to strangers in a strange land, in the name of the Lord. Many were the proofs besides those related in this work, that the Lord gave me, of His purpose that I should come to England; and being now many hundreds of miles distant from my daughter, and feeling that the Lord's time had arrived, I wrote to apprise her thereof, and shortly after returned homewards as far as New York, where I attended the anniversary of the abolition society: many of the speakers on that occasion came over to England to attend the great anti-slavery meeting in Exeter Hall. I then returned home; and was very affectionately received by my dear daughter; and made all possible dispatch in preparations for my departure.

The parting moment was painful in the extreme; for my daughter, and her two dear little boys, were entwined in the strongest affections of my heart; but I durst not disobey Him who had said unto me, as he had said unto Abraham, "Get thee out from thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." On the 10th of June 1840, I rose from the bed on which I had laid for the last time; the recollection of that bitter morning even now suffuses my eyes with tears, and interrupts the delineations of my pen: the morning was



calm, our minds resigned and peaceful, and we took, and held each others hand, in silence; which was at length broken by my daughter, who said, "Mother, we part now, but I think we shall yet meet again; the will of the Lord be done, and God be with thee." At nine o'clock, A. M., I bade farewell to those dear ties, and started for New York, where I tarried until the 1st July; and then I took the steam-boat to go to the ship Philadelphia, Captain Morgan, which vessel was lying in quarantine. Soon after our arrival on board, she got under weigh, and set sail for the port of London. My feelings on leaving the land of my nativity, and all that was dear to me on earth, were acutely indescribable; but God commanded, and I obeyed; bidding farewell to my country, and, committing my dear friends to the grace of God. The wind was fair, the passengers agreeable, and we were soon carried beyond the view of land. On the following morning, I awoke and presented my thanksgivings to my heavenly Father for His preserving care of me throughout the night. I then went upon deck, and surveyed the broad canopy above, and the rolling ocean beneath, gently moving wave after wave, as we glided over its tremulous surface. I observed the birds of the air flying over our heads, and wondered, at such a distance from land, that they were able to take such excursions without resting. I beheld the finny tribes pouring forth by thousands. I was now floating on the great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships! there is that great leviathan whom thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee, that

thou mayest give them their meat in due season. Oh Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all! the earth is full of thy riches. Psalm civ. 24, 27.

On the 23rd day of July, we were cheered with the sight of land; and on the 24th, we came to anchor off Falmouth, where most of the cabin passengers left us. On the evening of the 25th, we came safely into the London Docks: this was on a Saturday; and on the morning of the Lord's-day, I first set my foot on British ground. As I proceeded along Ratcliff Highway, I was much surprised to see the shops open, and many kinds of business in the course of transaction, women crying fruits for sale, and the people intent on traffic and marketing. I was indeed astonished, that in the metropolis of the most Christian country in the world, such a want of respect should be indicated towards the day which Jesus signified by His resurrection, and His apostles practically set apart for the commemoration of His eucharistic sacrament, and the ordinances of His religion. Whether the literal and exact requirements of the fourth commandment be, in the case of Christians, transferred from the Jewish Sabbath to the "Lord's-day," is a point upon which all the disciples of Christ are not agreed; but if Christians are not bound to observe an absolute quietude and rest thereon, they certainly are bound to pay it that respect which is due to the day on which our redemption was assured by the Lord's resurrection—a day which was made sacred by the practice of His apostles, and by their inspired authority, called the "Lord's-day." Having taken apartments in Well-close-square, in the evening I attended at the Countess

of Huntingdon's chapel, in Pell-street, and heard a discourse which afforded some encouragement to the heart of a female stranger in a foreign land. Some days elapsed ere I met with any of the Methodist family; but, going on the Wednesday evening again to Pell-street chapel, as I was passing a window, I caught sight of a lady, whose appearance powerfully arrested my attention; and it appeared that the feeling of surprise and interest was mutual. I turned back, and spoke to her, and inquired if she was acquainted with any section of the Methodist body? She said that her daughter should on the following evening conduct me to the Wesleyan chapel of St. George, which she did accordingly; and I found that several class meetings were held on that evening; on that occasion, I met with Mr. A——who introduced me to Mr. C——one of the local preachers; and I was admitted into the class led by him, and enjoyed a very sweet time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. I became acquainted also with Mrs. T.——a true sister in the Lord, who has since fallen asleep in Jesus: and was introduced to a gentleman who interested himself greatly on my behalf very considerably enlarged the circle of my acquaintance, and even ushered me before the committees of the peace and anti-slavery societies. I found my situation rather awkward in reference to the latter body. I was first received by a deputation of three gentlemen, and afterwards admitted before the board. It was really an august assembly; their dignity appeared so redundant, that they scarcely knew what to do with it all. Had I attended there on a matter of life and death, I think I could scarcely have been more closely

interrogated or more rigidly examined ; from the reception I met with, my impression was, that they imagined I wanted some pecuniary or other help from them ; for they treated me as the proud do the needy. In this, however, they were mistaken. Among many other questions, they demanded to be informed, whether I had any new doctrine to advance, that the English Christians are not in possession of ? To which I replied, no ; but I was sent to preach Christ, and Him crucified : unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness : they also wished to be informed, how it came about that God should send me ? to which I replied, that I could not tell ; but I knew that God required me to come hither, and that I came in obedience to His sovereign will ; but that the Almighty's design therein was best known to Himself ; but behold ! said I, " I am here." Pride and arrogancy are among the master sins of rational beings ; an high look, a stately bearing, and a proud heart, are abominations in the sight of God, and insure a woeful reverse in a future life. Infidels will indulge in pomposity and arrogance ; but Christians are and must be humble and lowly. As a servant of Jesus, I am required to bear testimony in his name, who was meek and lowly, against the lofty looks of man, and the assumptions of such lordly authority and self-importance. Ere this work meets the eye of the public, I shall have sojourned in England five years : and I am justified in saying, that my God hath made my ministry a blessing to hundreds of persons ; and many who were living in sin and darkness before they saw my coloured face, have risen up to praise the Lord, for having sent me to preach His Gospel on the shores of Britain ; numbers who had been reared



to maturity, and were resident in localities plentifully furnished with places of worship and ministers of the gospel, and had scarcely heard a sermon in their lives, were attracted to hear the coloured female preacher, were inclosed in the gospel net, and are now walking in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. I have travelled in several parts of England, and I thank God He has given me some spiritual children in every place wherein I have laboured.

Soon after my arrival, I met with a gentleman, who advised my immediate return to my own country; adding that if he had been in America before my departure and had known my intention, he would have advised me better: I replied, that I had no will of my own in the matter; but my heavenly Father commanded, and I durst not confer with flesh and blood, but obeyed and came: but like other men destitute of faith in God, he did not comprehend this kind of argument; and persisted in his worldly reasonings, saying that people did not give away their gold here, and I had much better return. It is to be deplored that there are so many Christians of this person's cast: who are of the world; speak in accordance with its principles and sentiments, and walk according to its course. Instead of having little faith, they discover none at all: ignorant of the Scriptures and of the power of God, the love of the Father is not in them. Having parted with this Laodicean gentleman, I called upon Mrs. H., in Princes-square: and my mind being somewhat damped, I sat a few minutes in silence, which Mrs. H. broke by an affectionate inquiry into my circumstances; at the same time, presenting me with a handsome donation;

telling me not to be discouraged, for the Lord, would open my way and sustain me : my mind was cheered and my faith strengthened by this opportune proof of the power of God to furnish succours and raise up friends for His people even in a land of strangers.

In a few days after, Mrs. T. introduced me to some of the Bible Christians, or Bryanites, as they are called ; who are, I believe, a secession from the Wesleyan Methodists : our reception from them was very cool ; but one of the brethren was about to preach in the street ; and he invited me to preach in his stead. Accordingly at the time appointed, we repaired to the street and commenced the meeting ; a very great crowd assembled, and I preached to them ; but the meeting was broken up by two policemen, who came and tapped me on the shoulder, and desired me to desist ; they demanded what authority I had for preaching ? a gentleman present said, " she has her authority in her hand," that is, " the Word of God : " we then departed.

On the following Lord's-day morning, I attended with Mrs. T., at Salem chapel ; and, in the afternoon, I preached in Stepney-fields, to a very numerous auditory. A very heavy thunder shower fell during the service, yet very few persons retired in consequence of it. When the service was terminated, a gentleman and lady came, and inquired of me where I resided ? and desired me to call and visit them ; which, in the course of a few days, I did, and was very affectionately received : the lady, Mrs. T. then invited me to spend a day with them, to which I consented, and enjoyed a heavenly day in their company. She then engaged me to spend a week with them ; I did so, and a delight-



ful week it was. The house was a little Bethel to us, and in the stated morning and evening worship of the family, the Lord manifested Himself in very rich displays of grace. Before my week expired, Mrs. T. sent to my apartments for my trunk, and bade me account her house my home during my sojourn in Eng'land. Their second daughter, who has since fallen asleep in Jesus, a most interesting and excellent young lady, was then greatly afflicted with a disease of the heart : our communion in the Spirit was exceedingly choice and precious ; I richly enjoyed and highly prized her society.

I visited a number of small chapels in this vast metropolis, and endeavoured to advance my heavenly Father's cause by attending many religious tea meetings ; some of which I found very edifying and profitable to the soul. I also partook of a breakfast with a number of ministers and friends at Mr. B. T—r., by his special invitation ; and after this, I was sent for to Ramsgate, and travelled through the county of Kent, preaching the word in many of the towns and villages as I passed through them. When in Canterbury, my mind was much struck with the mutations of time upon the works of man. I beheld there some stately edifices which were venerable with age ; I ascended the eminence of the Dane John, from which I had a full view of the town ; the spot where some of the martyrs of Jesus sealed the truth with their blood, was pointed out to me ; and as I gazed upon the memorable place, I thought of those faithful servants of God with much sympathy and yearning of heart.

Having received an invitation from some of the Primitive Methodists in Yorkshire, to go down and labour

among them, I went thither by railway, and reached Pontefract about eight o'clock on the evening of the 30th of December, 1840; the distance was great, being about 170 miles; and I was very much fatigued with the journey. The hireling will make the best bargain he can; but they who bear the commissions of Jesus will find no sinecures involved in them, but frequently hard labour and harder fare. On my arrival, I was very kindly received by Mrs. Cliff; and after a good night's repose, I was on the next morning much invigorated. On the following day, December 31, Mr. Colson the superintendent minister, and Mr. Crompton his assistant, called to see me, and explained the objects they had in view in sending for me. In the evening we attended a tea meeting of the Sunday School; on which occasion the children sang some beautiful anthems, and repeated some pieces with much correctness; the meeting was afterwards addressed by some of the brethren, and also by myself. At the conclusion of the meeting, we observed a watch night, as is customary with the Methodist societies, which was attended with much of the presence of God, the gracious manifestation of His Spirit, and with spiritual benefit to the souls of many. The weather was very inclement and rigorous; and an abundance of labour was presented before me, which I entered into with much delight and vigour, though with considerable weariness and distress to the body.

"My shrinking flesh complains,  
And murmurs to contend so long;  
My mind superior is to pains:  
When I am weak, then am I strong."



On the 3rd of January, 1841, I went to Brotherton, and preached in the chapel belonging to the brethren ; it was completely crowded, and the Lord was in the midst of us to bless His people with the manifestations of His grace and love. After service, I returned the same evening to Pontefract, very much exhausted with fatigue. On the following day Mr. T— came to conduct me to Thorp, where I preach in the evening, from “ Enter ye at the strait gate,” Matt. vii. 13, with considerable energy of spirit ; but, throughout my labours in England, I have found a far less favourable soil for the seed of the kingdom in the British mind than in the American. Human nature must be in every country radically the same ; God is the same ; yet the word preached is generally attended in America with far more powerful and converting results than in Britain. The population of the United States have not been so extensively vitiated by the infidelity and sedition of the press ; and being more thinly spread over an immense territorial space, there is less of contamination than in the more condensed masses of English society ; and they perhaps possess more honest simplicity of character, and less of the self-sufficiency of a licentious intellectuality and worldly wisdom. It is not for me, however, to account for the cause ; the fact is but too apparent. I had many seals to my ministry in Yorkshire, notwithstanding the general barrenness of the mental soil ; and found, in many of its towns, and especially in Leeds, a very loving, lively and benevolent Christian people ; not only in the Methodist, but in other denominations also ; and amongst the society of Friends. I attended one of the meetings of the Friends there, and whilst sitting

among them, was moved by the Spirit to address them, and the dear friends received the message which came through the medium of their coloured sister with patience and delight.

I went to Leeds on the 4th of February; a place rendered memorable to the Methodist societies by the labours of Mrs. Fletcher, whose ministry the Lord so signally blest with the communications of His Spirit: the first place I preached at in Leeds was a chapel in Leylands, which had been in the occupation of the late Anne Carr, who had recently departed this life in the faith of Jesus; the place was then in the occupation of her companion in labours, Miss Martha Williams, and the Lord graciously gave me some seals to my ministry in that chapel. From thence, I went, on the 7th, to Mr. R—ds, and laboured with the Primitive Methodists on Quarry Hill. I attended several missionary meetings in their connexion, which were held in various circuits; taking up my abode chiefly at Miss P—s, and Mr. A—s; under the hospitable roof of the latter friend, I spent many weeks, in peace and happiness, blessed with abundance of blessings spiritual and temporal. I also preached in Stanningley, for the primitive brethren; and for the Wesleyans, in their chapel; on which occasion, a very remarkable solemnity pervaded the assembly; and the Lord was pleased to direct my utterance, and give it such a pointedness, as made it apparent that it was a message from Himself. While I abode in that town, I lodged at Mr. G. W—s, with whose lady I went, by invitation, to breakfast with the minister, Mr. H. who was stationed there; we enjoyed a sweet and refreshing season in two family devotions of the morning; and

I felt a strong attachment in the Spirit to Mrs. H—, who, though young in life, was blessed with the possession of deep piety or devotion ; and a very sweet unction of the Holy Ghost abode on her spirit. From Stan-ningly I departed to Pontefract ; and, in a few days afterwards, received a letter from a brother at the former place, informing me that one of the brethren there had died suddenly, on the day of my departure ; but they sorrowed, at the loss of a dear brother on whose behalf they possessed a well grounded hope. Among others of the towns I visited in Yorkshire, was Bradford. I also preached an anniversary sermon at Shelf ; being, while I sojourned there, the guest of Mr. B—y. On my return to Leeds, I met with a gentleman from Hull, who came to conduct me to that place. I accordingly went thither ; and abode a few days, preaching in different parts of the town. On one evening there were ten persons who professed to find peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. On another occasion a female who had left her first love, and lost the vitality as well as the name of spiritual life, was recovered from her lapsed condition and obtained peace to her soul. On my departure I engaged to come to them again, and preach to them on the opening of their new chapel ; and this poor woman had desired to open her mind to me, and relate what great things God had done for her by my ministry ; but ere that day came, her spirit had taken flight from this region of sin and grief ; but she left a message for me on her death-bed, to assure me that she died in the faith of Christ, confiding in the God of her salvation.

From Hull I returned to Leeds ; and, during my tem-

porary abode there, the church sustained a loss in the sudden death of our dear brother, William Dawson, who had been a zealous champion in the work of the Lord. Several thousands of persons were congregated together on the day of his interment, to witness the procession, and manifest their respect to the memory of our departed brother. The corpse was brought out into the open air, and one of the ministers offered prayer to God; after which, Mr. Garland delivered an address, the local preachers and leaders then formed in order of procession, six abreast in the front of the hearse, and the cavalcade solemnly proceeded to the place of interment, which was several miles distant from Leeds; the whole distance being thronged by multitudes who anxiously witnessed the scene. From Leeds I took a tour of that part of the country, travelling from town to town, and village to village, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and testifying to thousands of persons, repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. At the appointed time, I fulfilled my engagement at Hull, leaving on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July; and on the day following, I preached at Brewery Fields, and had the pleasure to witness the conversion of four souls from darkness to light: at Keithly, I met with a gentleman and his wife, who were from Liverpool on a visit, and who gave me a very pressing invitation to come over to Liverpool and see them, which I promised to do. I preached on an anniversary occasion at Leylands, when seven souls entered into the liberty of the gospel. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, I went to Wirksworth, accompanied by sister W—ms, and we were kindly received by Mr. S. E. and the friends there; I preached on the afternoon and evening



of the day following in the chapel; when four persons received very manifest spiritual benefit. I also preached in the Wesleyan chapel in that town, and much enjoyed the interviews with its minister with which I was privileged.

Having written to the family in Liverpool who had so pressing invited me to visit them, to apprise them of my coming, on the 2nd of August, I took leave of sister W. and the kind friends at Wirksworth, and travelled thither by way of Manchester, and arrived in Liverpool about six o'clock in the evening. On going to the residence of the parties who had invited me, I found that the lady and her daughter were absent from home; and the gentleman's memory was so reluctant, that he very distantly recognised me. I was greatly fatigued with my journey, and somewhat disappointed after such a journey, to find my reception so different from the invitation. I soon took my leave of one whom I found not at all careful to entertain strangers, or practice the Christian duty of hospitality, and went in search of lodgings, which I had great difficulty in procuring; but after wandering from place to place, and making many fruitless applications, I at length succeeded. It was of the Lord's goodness that I was at that inauspicious time possessed of sufficient money for my exigencies. My visit to this town was replete with discouragements. I attended several meetings of the association, who were holding their annual conference there at that time. I also made inquiries for the Wesleyans, and attended at Brunswick Chapel; and afterwards called upon the Rev. Mr. H., who received me with kindness, and referred me to Mr. D. the Wesleyan superintendent minister at

that station. On my visit to Mr. D., he left directly on my introduction, to attend a funeral; but Mrs. D. entered into conversation with me, and assuming the theologian, reprobated female preaching as unscriptural; adding, that Mr. D. was greatly opposed to it, and always put it down if possible: she further said, that Paul ordained that a woman should not be suffered to speak in the church; but to sit in silence, and ask information of her husband at home. I was, however, too blind to discern, that for a female to warn sinners to flee from the wrath to come; to preach Christ to them, invite them to come to Him, and exhort them to be saved, was equally disorderly and improper with the interruptions of a church in its meetings and services, by the inquisitive questions of the females present; nor could I possibly understand how my ministry, which is directed to bring sinners to repentance, and employed in humble and affectionate attempts to stir up the pure minds of the saints, by way of remembrance and exhortation, involved any dictation or assumption of authority over the male sex. The apostle directed that a woman, when praying or prophesying, should have her head covered; from which it may be inferred, that the praying and prophesying of a woman is allowable; but Mrs. D. was differently minded, and thought that a preaching female ought to depart from the Methodist body, and unite with the Quakers; but the Lord, who raised up Deborah to be a prophetess, and to judge His people, and inspired Hulda to deliver the counsels of God, sent me forth not as a Quakeress but as a Methodist, and chiefly employed me to labour amongst the Methodists. I mentioned to her, some of

the methods, by which the Lord made known to me His will, that I should go and preach the gospel ; and these she met, by supposing, that it was possible I might have been misled. By this time, Mr. D. returned, and his Christian charity seemed put to some little expense on finding that I had not decamped ; I presented him my testimonials and certificates ; as he returned them, he said, " But do you not know that we do not allow women to preach ; and that there is nothing in the Scriptures that will allow of it at all ? Addressing me with much assumed authority and severity. " We do not allow," sounded very uncouthly in my ears in a matter in which the commission of the Almighty is assumed. I again related some of the manifestations made to me by the Holy Ghost in reference to this matter ; to which he replied, that he could not see how God could, consistently with Himself, give me such directions. Doubtless he said the truth ; for the line of worldly wisdom, self-sufficient reason and opinionated faith, can never gauge the operations of the Spirit of God ; and always either rejects them at once, or meets them with, " How can these things be ?" He then complimented me by adducing some instances, in which female preachers had misconducted themselves ; and wound up his vituperations by saying, that the success of my labours in the ministry proved nothing in my favour ; for that God would ever bless His word by whomsoever preached. Perhaps, had I taken upon myself to have investigated this gentleman's call to the ministry, I might have written Tekel upon it, for his spiritual condition falls far short of the standard I have received : but Paul says, " Who art thou that judgeth another man's servant ; to

his own master he standeth or falleth," and, "Why dost thou judge thy brother." I then departed from this iron-hearted abode, somewhat distressed and wounded in spirit and at a loss what step I should take next.

But thanks be unto God; He knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and will not suffer us to be tempted above what we are able to bear. On the following morning I awoke, with these words passing through my mind,

"Angels are now hovering round us;  
Unperceived, they mix the throng;  
Wondering at the love which crowned us;  
Glad to join the holy song.

Hallelujah!

Love and praise to Christ belong."

I then felt the assurance of the Holy Spirit that the dark cloud which had so thickly and heavily pressed upon me was breaking; and a way soon after opened for me to visit Manchester, which in a few days after I did; and took lodgings on Chetham-hill, of Mrs. H — who conducted me to Mr. R —'s, a local preacher, at whose house I was invited to spend the day: in the evening the class met there, and I assisted to lead it; the people were in a healthy, spiritual condition; and we enjoyed a sweet fellowship of the Spirit and communion with each other. On the 28th, I preached in Stanly Street; and on the 31st, in the association chapel in Stork Street, to a numerous audience. In a few days afterwards, I was sent for to visit a lady who was in great distress of mind. On entering the apartment where she was sitting, I shall never forget the expression of despair which sat on her countenance: she



informed me that on the previous Lord's day, she came in the afternoon from motives of curiosity to hear me, and that the discourse had cut her to the heart, and portrayed her character as one self-destroyed by suicidal sin : the Bible was lying by her side ; I took it up, opened at, and read from Isaiah lxi. 1—3, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek ; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison unto them that are bound : to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God ; to comfort all that mourn ; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion ; to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness, &c." She then broke out in rapturous exclamations, praising God for sending me as a messenger of salvation to her ; declaring herself filled with joy, and wondering at the change which had taken place within her soul ; she confessed her unworthiness to receive such unexampled mercy and grace ; having gone to hear me as she acknowledged, without any thought of good, but of mere curiosity ; and she glorified God in me. This dear lady was one of many of the earliest seals to my ministry in Manchester. On one occasion, I accompanied my friend, Mrs. H——, to visit a family of her acquaintance ; they made no pretensions whatever to religion ; but our visit proved a blessing indeed to them : several of their neighbours were present ; and among them, a private in the police force and his wife ; and, as I inquired of their prospect, relative to a future state of

existence, his wife informed me that he had been a religious man, but had fallen from grace; and with much earnestness intreated me to discourse with him in particular. I did so; and the Lord gave me a message to him, which went to his heart; he burst into tears; lamented that his calling was of such a description, that the class of persons to whom he belonged were regarded as the offscouring of the human race, and that few cared for their souls; adding, that the hardships of their situation were peculiarly distressing; and expressed great gratitude to God and acknowledgments to me for the sympathy I had evinced for him. We then bowed down before the Lord in fervent prayer, and all present were greatly moved, and deeply affected. A great door and effectual was opened to me of the Lord, in Manchester; and many there became the crown of my rejoicing in Christ Jesus. I again became fully occupied in the service of my heavenly Master, going from chapel to chapel, and from town to town.

I preached one day at the house of Mr. W——, under the bank, from Luke xiii. 7. "Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground." Many persons were deeply affected under that sermon; and among them, one poor man who came in a few days afterwards to Mrs. W——, and asked permission to meet in the class, stating that he had been wholly deprived of sleep ever since he heard that sermon. On the class-night, I preached a short discourse, which was followed by a prayer-meeting, and this man and four others experienced the pardoning love of God.

On the 15th of September I went by appointment to preach at the house of Mr. L. under the Bank; and just

before the meeting commenced, the powers of darkness suddenly assailed my spirit, and so burdened and obscured me, that in a short time I had no light or spirit within me; and I commenced the service with a weight upon my mind as if all the people were hanging upon me. A hungry people exhausts a spiritual ministry, a carnal people paralyzes it, an unbelieving people drags it down, a rebellious and resisting people grieves it, an erroneous people inflames it—the cause of my darkness, however, was not in the people; nor was I able to ascertain the reason, which has hitherto been hidden from me. In my first prayer the cloud was dispelled, and I proceeded with my work in the light of the Lord; but as I returned home to my lodging, the darkness returned upon my soul. In the morning the Lord smiled upon my soul again; and I arose with a light and cheerful heart, rejoicing in God with joy unpeakable and full of glory.

On the 23rd of October, I preached in the afternoon and evening to numerous audiences at Hayfield, with much freedom; and the people were very attentive and much edified.

On the 27th, Mr. Ellery, the superintendent of the Tonnon Street circuit, with his wife, called and took me home with them; I preached for him in the evening; and seven persons were under the sermon brought into the liberty of the children of God. On the 1st of November, I attended a Wesleyan Missionary meeting at Chetham; and enjoyed it as a time of refreshing from the Lord. On the 7th, I preached morning and afternoon at Tonnon Street Chapel; and preached a charity sermon in the evening, in Berry Street Chapel



Salford. While in Manchester, I took an opportunity of going with several of the brethren and sisters to visit the deaf, dumb, and blind school, where we witnessed the substitutes for tongues, ears and eyes in successful operation. Truly marvellous is the immense variety of resources, which the bountiful God of nature has placed within the reach of, and at the service of man.

On the 27th, I went to Glossop to preach three anniversary sermons ; on my arrival in the town, Mr. H. came to the coach to meet me, conducted me to his house, and very kindly entertained me : the anniversary was a delightful day ; and numbers found it good to be in attendance. I preached again on the following evening, and the place was excessively crowded : on the day after, I returned to Manchester. On the 5th of December I went to Stockport to preach some charity sermons ; and the croud was so great, that it was with great difficulty I reached the pulpit ; many hundreds of persons were forced to retire who could not gain admittance. I preached again on the 8th, and spent a very happy week there in visiting the brethren and sisters, and returned again to Manchester. On the 10th, I went to Hollingworth ; on the Lord's day morning I led the class, and preached in the afternoon and evening in the chapel. On the Monday a great many of the friends brought the provisions together and spent the afternoon in singing, prayer and spiritual conversation : in the evening they all repaired to the chapel, and I preached again to a great congregation. Two gentlemen were present who were utter strangers to all the friends ; and, as they placed themselves just before me, laughing and tapping each other, their design was



apparently not the edification of their souls. I preached on that evening from Proverbs iii. 5, 6, and, under the sermons, their laughter was checked, and they hung down their heads and strove to conceal their dejection. After service the congregation was detained some time by a very heavy shower of rain; and I sang one of the American hymns; many shed a profusion of tears: and these gentlemen seemed rivetted to the spot, and were the last to retire from the chapel. On the next day, I was about to return to Manchester; and on my way to the coach office, I called at Mr. H—'s, to bid him and his family farewell, when Mrs. H. exclaimed, "Oh! are you going? I am very much disappointed; for I wished you and some other friends to spend the afternoon with us, and I have been making preparations for it; and I was in hopes it would do me good: for I feel that I am a poor and a lost sinner; I am very much burdened; her tears and sobs suppressed her further utterance; and I needed no further persuasive to stay that day at their house; and on that evening, she obtained peace with God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and on the next Lord's day, she came forth and gave evidence of having become a new creature in Christ Jesus. On the 11th, I returned to Manchester, and removed my lodgings to St James' street; in the evening, I attended a tea meeting in Beetle-street, at which Mr. F. presided. On the 25th I went to Salybridge, where I received a message from the friends at Hollingsworth, desiring me to attend a tea meeting there that evening. I accordingly went thither, and found Mrs. H. still rejoicing in the love of God: we had a very comfortable tea meeting. On

the Lord's day I preached in the afternoon and evening at Staleybridge; and also on the Monday evening. On the 31st. Mrs. F—d. of Salford, the lady of the superintendent sent for me to come and spend the day with them; which I did, and it being the last of the year, at nine o'clock in the evening we went to the chapel to commence the watch meeting: several of us were speakers on the occasion, and it was a season of much solemnity and godly comfort. Thus we witnessed the expiration of the year, with thanksgivings for the divine kindness which had been vouchsafed to us therein; and hailed the new year with prayer for and earnest of sustaining grace and prospective mercies. I tarried in Manchester about nine months; visiting and preaching in very many towns and villages in its vicinity and within ten or twenty miles around it; the Lord being with me to direct and sustain my willing exertions in His holy cause. I preached about two hundred times during my continuance here; and ultimately by His direction, took my leave of the dear friends to see them no more in the flesh, till the trumpet of God shall sound the muster of the blood-bought congregation to the throne of Jesus.

On the 13th of June, 1843, I travelled by railway to Huddersfield; met with a very kind reception from Mr. S. Routledge; and, in the afternoon, Mrs. R. accompanied me on a visit to Mr. Keys, a class leader in the Wesleyan connexion. I attended, and led his class in the evening, and enjoyed a happy season with the people. Several of Mr. R.'s work-people were members of his class; and they went and informed Mrs. R. that they had enjoyed a most blessed opportunity with me; the information sunk with grea

weight into her mind, for she was at the time in great concern about the salvation of her soul, and very much distressed on account of her sins. On my return to her house, she said to me, "I have earnestly endeavoured to find rest for my soul ; but there is no rest for me, Mrs. Elaw." We then kneeled down before the Lord in prayer for her, and He removed her burden and manifested His comforts to her spirit through faith in Christ Jesus. On the 17th, I went to Shelf, and visited my kind friends, Mr. and Mrs. B. I assisted in the anniversary sermons of the Primitive Methodists, visited a number of the friends, led several of their classes, and preached also in the Wesleyan chapel, where we enjoyed a very rich manifestation of the presence of God, and a delightful opportunity to our souls. I staid here a fortnight, passing the time very pleasantly in the family of Mr. B. I also visited frequently at Mr. G—ys ; his wife is a very godly woman, whose adorning is not of the outward person, but of the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible ; a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. This lady is one of the genuine daughters of Sarah ; chaste in conversation, subdued in temper and reverent to her husband. Oh, that many flighty, petulant, high-minded and insubordinate wives, who profess the religion of Jesus, would pay more attention to the duties of Christian wives, and like this pious lady, adore the doctrine of God their Saviour. Little Miss G, a child of ten years of age, had already savingly experienced that the Lord is gracious, and rejoiced in the God of her salvation, she manifested as grave and steady a deportment, as might

have been expected from the years of a Christian matron.

I returned to Huddersfield on the 11th of July, where I remained a few weeks ; it is delightfully situated ; being entirely surrounded with majestic hills, with several streams of water running through it, which conduces much to the prosperity of its manufacturing enterprise. There are in this town four places of worship belonging to the Episcopalians ; two very large Wesleyan chapels, and two others occupied by the Primitive Methodists. The houses are neat, and chiefly built of stone ; there are several bridges watering places and baths. It has a large market ; and appears to be situated in a fruitful soil, abounding with fruit trees ; the gardens are extensive and many of them tastefully laid out ; and the approaches to it are by railway and good high roads. On the 29th, I again visited Hull, when I preached morning and evening to immense congregations ; and afterwards we held a prayer-meeting ; and the Lord blessed the word that day ; many were comforted, and many others inquired "what must we do to be saved."

On the 2nd of August, I embarked on board a steamer for London : there were a great many passengers on board ; several of whom were from very widely distant parts of the earth. Some of the passengers requested me to preach to them, and the captain having given permission, we ascended the poop, and there held our meeting, which many persons seemed much interested. One gentleman afterwards came and inquired my name, saying that he was about to write to his wife, and wished to give her an account of a meeting so



interesting and so novel to the crew of a steam-ship. I arrived in London about six o'clock in the evening very much fatigued. On going to my friend's, Mr. T., I found Mrs. T. was absent from home. I lodged that night at Mrs. F—'s; and the day following, I went to my former lodgings in Princes-square. My mind was somewhat cast down by these matters; for, notwithstanding the extensive exercises my faith has experienced, I am often too much a mere creature of circumstances.

On the 7th I went to Great Queen-street chapel to hear Bishop Soul from America, and was very much fatigued with the length of the walk. My mind was at this time very cloudy and dark; and I formed the resolution to call upon and have an interview with the Bishop; but as I began to get myself ready for the visit, I was seized with a fearful tremour and loss of strength. I sunk down upon a chair, and pondered within myself the reason of this visitation, and it occurred to me, that my design of going to the Bishop was taken without the permission of God being first obtained. I therefore abandoned this project, and the cloud on my spirit soon disappeared, and my peace was restored. Shortly afterwards, Mr. D—y came and engaged me to preach in Crosby Row chapel, Borough; Mr. G. engaged me to preach in his chapel, I also made an engagement to preach for Mr. P. and another to preach for Mr. O. in Whites-row chapel. I also preached in Timothy chapel, Ratcliff Highway, for Mr. B. and for many other ministers and congregations in other chapels, after fulfilling a host of engagements: and a variety of labour, I receiving an invitation from the north of England; and on the 27th of November I

went on board a vessel for Berwick-upon-Tweed. We had a very boisterous passage; and, in the night, a gale of wind laid the vessel completely on her side. The passengers all concluded that we should soon be overwhelmed in a watery grave; but the Lord held our lives in His preserving care, and the vessel was got upright again. At eleven o'clock on the night of the 30th, we came to anchor in the port of Berwick. I went ashore, the same night, to Mr. J. R—'s, the superintendent, who very kindly received me; and thence retired to Mr. G—s. Many persons were converted to God under my ministry in this town; among the number of whom, was Miss A. G.; she had been to chapel with me, and, on our return, several of the preachers accompanied us; before we parted, we kneeled down in prayer together, and the Lord then and there gave her the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins. The town of Berwick is one of great antiquity; the people pointed out the remains of an old castle, which is said to have priority over the Christian era; also, the ruins of an old abbey of remote antiquity. The streets of Berwick, I was informed, have been drenched with human blood. There are several places of worship in the town belonging to different denominations; and the pasture fields in the vicinity are very beautiful and green. There is also an elegant pier, which is a convenient promenade for the townspeople, and an extensive fishery. From this place, I went over to Holy Island, and preached to the fishermen, and enjoyed some very blessed meetings among them. This is a place of great antiquity, and was formerly inhabited by a great number of monks. On my return to Berwick,

Mr. R. conducted me to Newcastle-upon-Tyne. I went from thence to Shields on the 25th of December, and reached there late in the evening; but my Heavenly Father had been there before me, and prepared the way. A comfortable home was provided, and generous open hearts to receive the stranger at Mrs. T—s. When I arrived at her house, I was not aware that it had been arranged for me to lodge there. I therefore sat waiting to go I knew not whither. Mrs. T. bade me take off my out-doors apparel, at which I inquired if I was to stay there? and she replied, "Yes, this is your house as long as you stay in these parts; and we shall receive our reward in heaven." She then related how her mind had been exercised, until she came to the resolution to receive me under her roof. The Lord grant to this dear lady an hundred-fold more in this present time, and in the world to come, everlasting life. My labours here commenced on the 25th, in the new chapel. Mr. R. of Berwick, preached in the morning and evening, and myself in the afternoon: it was an auspicious commencement. On Monday, I attended a tea-meeting, which proved a very interesting time; and many excellent addresses were delivered by the speakers. After this, I went and preached at Newcastle, and returned again to South Shields. The sphere of effort was enlarged before me, and in labours I became more abundant. In heat and cold, through wet and dry weather, by night and day, I laboured in that part of God's vineyard, preaching the gospel of Christ incessantly, wherever opportunity was afforded me. One of the seals to my ministry here, was a descendant of Abraham, according to the flesh—a Jew outwardly,

who, believing in the Lord with the heart unto righteousness, became a Jew inwardly also.

The success of my ministry, in Shields, was very gratifying; but here as in many other places, I endured a considerable share of persecution from the opponents of female preaching; some opposing my ministry of mere caprice, and others from mistaken convictions. Satan never fails to find a pretext by which to inspire his agents with opposition against that ministry which is of God. While in this neighbourhood, I was sent for to visit a young man confined to his bed with mortal disease: though favoured with Christian parents, it appeared that when in health, he had indulged in sentiments very inimical to revealed religion: subdued however by a sickness which exhausted his spirits and secluded him from the accustomed gaieties of life, he became susceptible of more serious impressions and of juster views. On my first visit to him, he was not only very weak in body, but very dark as to his perceptions of spiritual things. As I read the Scriptures, conversed with and opened to him the way of salvation, he was led to a discernment of the great atonement for sin in the cross of Jesus, and cried to the Lord for mercy: the Lord heard our united prayers, and spoke peace to his soul. He took refuge in the propitiation set forth by the Most High, became justified by faith, and believing, found peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. His surviving days were employed in the praises of Him who had called him out of darkness into His marvellous light; and he rejoiced in hope of the glory of God: the love of God was richly shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost; and after languishing a few weeks more in



the flesh, he found the rest which he sought ; departing to be with Jesus, which is far better than a protracted abode among the ills of mortality.

On the 28th of January, 1343, I preached again at Newcastle, on the opening of a chapel that had been long closed: but was now taken by the Ebenezer society for the cause of the Lord: the meetings were well attended ; and I had the pleasure of knowing that some persons were converted to God therein. I generally found Newcastle a very barren and rocky soil to work upon; for the wickedness of the people is very great; and the cry of it, like the cry of Sodom, must ere long reach unto heaven ; but nevertheless God hath a chosen remnant even there, whom He delights to bless ; and I might enumerate many names here dear to me, whom I love for the truth's sake which dwelleth in them.

On the 8th of September, I went to Rainton Hall ; and preached on the following Lord's day to a numerous congregation in Middle Rainton ; the place was filled with the glory of the Lord, and the people with the Holy Ghost ; the next day we had a delightful tea meeting. On the 12th, I visited Colliery-road; passed the day at Mrs. L——s, took breakfast at Mr. R——s, and returned to preach at Rainton. Just before I went into the meeting, I was called in to see a sick woman, who related to me a remarkable vision which she had seen. On the 14th ; I preached at Pittenton to a very large audience ; and the meeting was attended with much power and spiritual assurance ; after the service the friends presented me with a small sum of money for which I was thankful to my Heavenly Father. On the 15th, I went to New Lampton, and was cordially re-

ceived by Mr. J. H——n : on the 15th, I preached to a large assembly, and on the next Lord's day I preached again to a dense mass of people, and held a prayer meeting after preaching. On retiring from that meeting, I was filled with the love of God too full to conceal my emotion, and I seemed to hear a concert of angelic voices singing the hymns of God in the air over my head.

On the 19th, I went to Lumley, and preached in the new connexion chapel to a large and listening audience. It was a very solemn season ; there being a very fatal distemper raging in the town at the time, which had prostrated many persons in death, and rendered their surviving relatives and friends so many bereaved mourners : the next day I returned to New Lampton, greatly exhausted by much travelling and preaching. On the 23rd, I went to Hettingly hole, and visited a young woman then dying, whose death occurred a few hours after. On the 24th, I preached in the Seceders Chapel to an immense throng of people ; the vapours which arose from so compacted a concourse, as it condensed, ran down the walls in streams of water ; and I caught a severe cold on this occasion. On the 27th, I preached there again to another multitude : the day following I spent the afternoon at Mr. W——s, whose daughter, a widow, was dying : we bowed the knee in prayer to God for her ; and I received the assurance that our petitions were granted : she spoke not, but when I arose, she took my hand, and looked at me with an affectionately languishing smile. On the 30th, I went to Colliery row, being in very bad health. I preached three sermons there, and likewise held a love feast ; and taking a last farewell of my dear friends, I

returned on the 4th of October to New Lampton, and on the 5th, preached at Newbottle, in the Wesleyan chapel; the friends connected with which expressed themselves greatly edified, invited me to preach there again on the following Lord's day, and gave me a ticket for their tea meeting of Monday. One of the brethren engaged early to inform me by note on what part of the Lord's-day I should occupy their pulpit; however, I received no note from him, and therefore I went not. On the Monday, having a ticket for their tea meeting; I went with several of my friends; but could not obtain admittance; for the interval from Saturday was too great for their memories: they had all forgotten me; nor was there one who was able to recognise the preacher who had so delighted them the previous week, they had probably received a philippic from some petty Authority against female preachers, which had blotted me out altogether from their thought and feeling. On my return in the evening, I was attacked with a very severe fit of illness, which confined me to my bed for five months; but my Heavenly Father was graciously pleased to make my consolations abound throughout this period of affliction; that dear lady Elizabeth Gardiner, was unremitting in her kind attentions to me, and with great benevolence administered to my necessities. Mr. A. gave proof of the constancy of his kindness, and sustained the burden of my sickness without prospect or desire of remuneration; the kind friends loved not in word only, but in deed and in truth: my medical attendant also was very assiduous and kind.

I have felt much gratitude to the Lord for enkindling